

Best Plays of the Year

BEST PLAYS OF THE YEAR 1963

RIGER

PRENTICE-HALL



*A Documentary of Pro Football
in the National Football League*

by **ROBERT RIGER**





Robert Riger is the only journalist in America who has the ability to report with text, photographs, and drawings. Last year he created the first annual edition of **BEST PLAYS OF THE YEAR** — the *only* picture record of a single season in an American sport. **BEST PLAYS** was widely hailed as “a pro football fan’s dream book,” and established itself as an outstanding annual publishing event. This second annual sustains the momentum of the first book, and the 150 pictures and diagrams, and exclusive interviews with the top players of this year, gives it an immediacy that is unique in publishing. The quality of Riger’s work makes **BEST PLAYS** a monument to pro football.

The artist-photographer describes his book best: “This is a documentary of fourteen Sundays of pro football; the 1963 season and the climactic Championship Game. These are not called the *best games* because this would imply that those not covered were something less. This is my journal in words and pictures of a year of exciting pro football covering the entire country and the NFL. If each Saturday morning every fan could pick any pro football game and be given an airplane ticket and a sideline pass, where would he go? What would he see? If he talked to the men alone about *that* game, what would he learn? This is **BEST PLAYS**. It is dedicated to the players and in intimately reporting one game and one play it reflects the universality of all of football and the world of the athlete. If these pictures are good, it is only because the men play with an intensity that creates a grand dramatic image.”

- VINCE LOMBARDI:** *Bob Riger is a fine reporter with great imagination and he can capture football in pictures better than any man I know.*
- Y. A. TITTLE:** *BEST PLAYS really shows what our business is all about.*
- AL SHERMAN:** *This book is superb. Bob sees everything on a football field.*
- JOHN UNITAS:** *Bob Riger sees a football game as we see it. No one shows playmaking like this.*

Other Books by Robert Riger

BEST PLAYS OF THE YEAR

(First Annual Edition)
Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1963

RUN TO DAYLIGHT

(With Vince Lombardi and W. C. Heinz)
Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1963

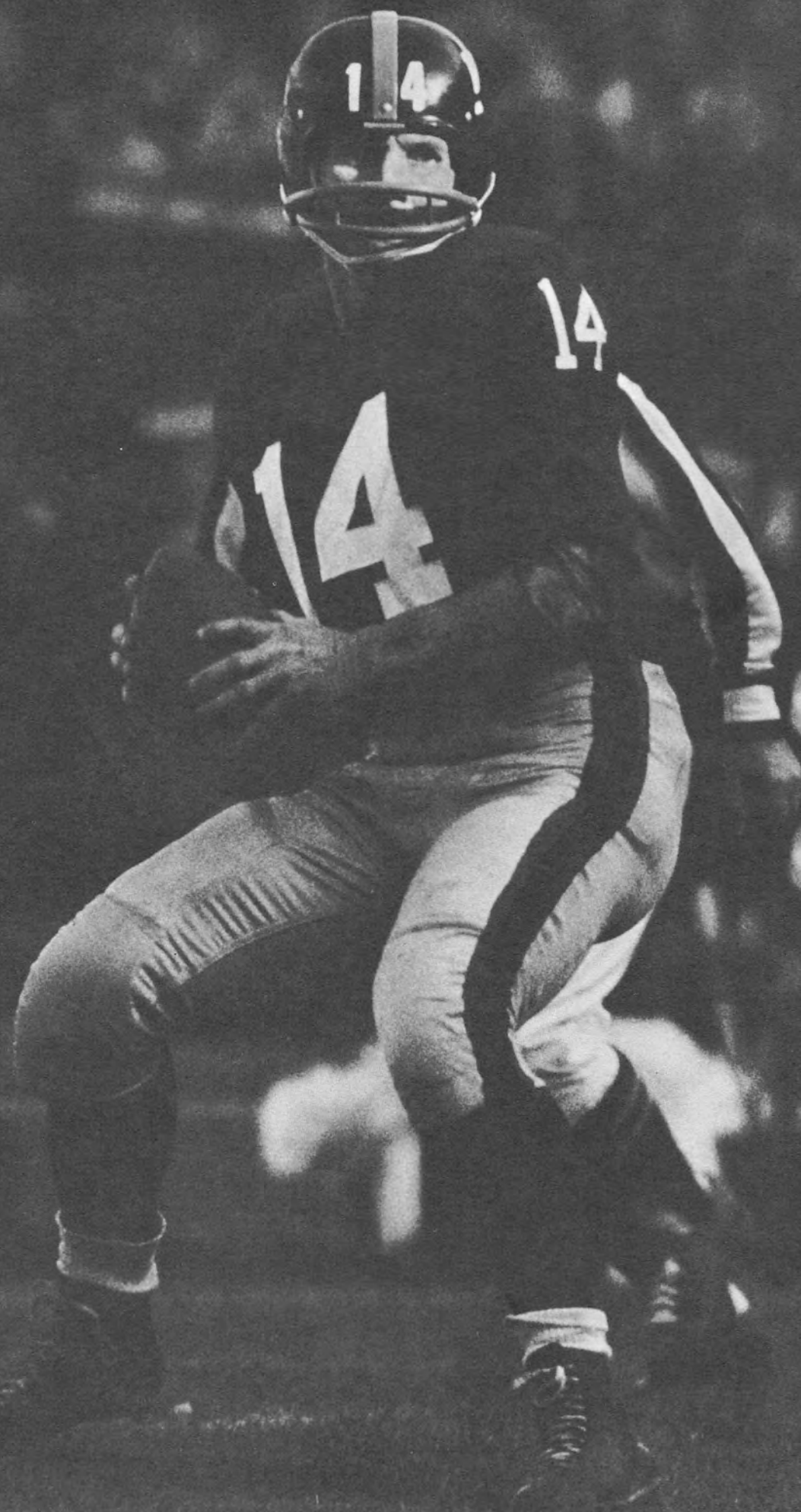
THE PROS

(Commentary by Tex Maule)
Simon and Schuster, 1960

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R. R.

PH



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*Dedicated to the Players,
Coaches and Owners
of the
National Football League*

DESIGNED BY ROBERT RIGER



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ALL PHOTOGRAPHS AND DRAWINGS BY ROBERT RIGER
LITHOGRAPHY BY THE WRIGHT LITHOGRAPHING CO., INC., NEW YORK



In his classic stance, Giant quarterback Y. A. Tittle (14) begins his sixteenth season in a perfect pocket of protection.

OPENING DAY, 1963 **GIANTS 37 - COLTS 28**

Municipal Stadium, Baltimore

The 44th season begins! The tone and significance of professional football was reflected in the quiet elegance at Canton, Ohio on September 7, 1963, when the Pro Football Hall of Fame opened and 17 immortals were inducted as charter members. The heritage of the National Football League teams and the great players and club officials of the past was echoed that sunny day in Canton. This season the pro football explosion will reach new heights as a national game in the U.S. The exhibition season, ushered in by the College All-Star game on August 1, has already reached the intensity of actual season play. The ingenious pro football double-header drew 83,000 fans in Cleveland and more than a million fans attended the pre-season games. In 1934, 408,000 people watched *all* of the regular season games with no television and little radio, but it was a great year for the Pros — all the men enshrined in the Hall of Fame were playing then.

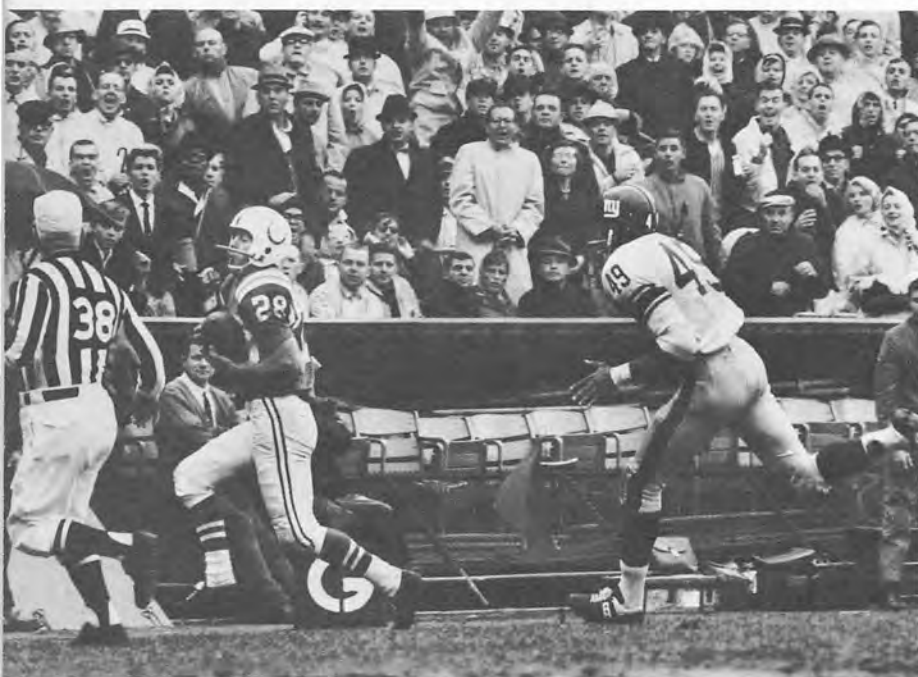
The game remained news during the long cold winter as the newspapers carried an inordinate amount of print on the suspension of All-Pro halfback Paul Hornung and All-Pro tackle Alex Karras by Commissioner Pete Rozelle for breach of contract. A number of players were involved in crippling accidents and three died.

Ernie Davis' swift passing was too quick and tragic to allow time for anything but muffled remorse for a remarkable athlete who had just begun to play. Don Fleming was lost working on a high-tension wire. In a way, the saddest loss of all was "Big Daddy" Lipscomb, the enormous and beloved tackle of Pittsburgh. In New York a young 12-year-old devoted to the Giants asked his father how Big Daddy died. When he was told, his eyes filled with tears and he asked — as only little boys can — "But, why?"

The national hunger for pro football excitement seems insatiable and everyone, everywhere, is anxious to get out to the stadiums for the thrilling drama. More than 334,000 spectators attended the first seven games on this opening NFL weekend, with the largest crowd, 60,029 (and the wettest), watching the Giants beat the Colts in Baltimore 37-28. The high-scoring opener brought Baltimore's second favorite son, Y. A. Tittle, face to face with John Unitas, their first. Unitas was half recovered from a right shoulder injury and threw only two touchdowns. Tittle was magnificent, driving his team from a 21-3 deficit to victory with three scores that showed the same brilliant style he displayed 16 years before, when he began his career in this city.



4 Touchdowns for a new Coach



The two top executives of the Baltimore club sat quietly in the background as Don Shula, the determined 33-year-old new head coach talked about his first game. His first defeat. "We should not have lost. Not the way we started out. They fumble a handoff on the third play of the game and Gino (Marchetti, 89) picks it up and staggers about 40 yards for our first touchdown (top left). The third time they get the ball they fumble and on the first play John Unitas floats one 33 yards to Jimmy Orr (28) who has Barnes (49) beat 10 feet for our second score (left center). At the start of the second period they have third down and long yardage and they run a screen to McElhenny and he runs well, but fumbles the slippery ball on their 44-yard line. Then in four plays Unitas throws over the middle to Mackey and he goes 32 yards to score (sequence at right) busting past Webb (21) and Patton (20). Now we have them down 21-3! Before the half ended, Hill scored off tackle (lower left) untouched, and I could see their coach explode across the field."



Raymond Berry came over and praised the Colts' rookie tight end from Syracuse. "John Mackey is just so powerful they better not give him any room out there because if they do — he's gone! There is no way to describe what he will do for our ball club. Common sense will tell you when you have that kind of man on the end it has got to help the two outside receivers."

In the past three League games between the Giants and the Colts, Lenny Moore, the fleet halfback, scored four touchdowns and set up three others. Three days before the season started he was hospitalized with an emergency appendectomy and would miss a crucial three weeks of play. "I would not say Moore is to us what Jim Taylor is to Green Bay or Jim Brown is to Cleveland," Shula said carefully. "He's a good dependable halfback and of course his greatest value is that on any given play he can go all the way. We did well in pre-season without him, however, and I think we should have won without him today. Our most crippling injury is to our defensive secondary and that was proved in this game. The unfortunate thing is that the four men back there must play together continuously to become well coordinated, knowing what the others are doing all of the time. We're hurting badly. Andy Nelson missed all but one game of the exhibition season and Bob Boyd is out with a bad injury. You cannot win in this League with a make-shift secondary."

On the sidelines in his black raincoat, the hatless Don Shula appeared grim and deadly serious (left) as the Giants climbed back into the ballgame. He was asked if he was as tough a taskmaster as he looked. "Football — the game — and the practice for the game is a serious business with me. I expect a full effort from everyone all the time. Although I was defensive coach for the Lions when I came here, Charlie Winner, who has always done a good job with the Baltimore defense, and I sat down and we took the best qualities of each defensive system and blended them together."

"Our mistakes today were just a case of missed assignments on defense. Tittle hurt us with the play-action pass. There is one grievous error we made today defensively as far as play-action is concerned. Play-action works when your ground game is working and when the defense is looking for the run and you pass, *but* we had them down 21-3 and we knew they would *pass*, in fact, *had* to pass to get back into the game and defensively we should have played it looser, flooding that secondary. We played it too cautiously because Webster and King were running well. It was a bad day. A wet field, the kind of a day where your kicking game is most important and today our field goal and punting were notoriously bad. And on the same field with the guy they've got you look twice as bad. Jim Martin said it was his worst day."

The coach concluded regretfully. "We did what you can never do in this League, we let them climb up out of a hole, we gave them life and then . . .





... they got away."

When two exceptional teams are evenly matched on the same football field there is usually a moment when the game comes down to one play. In most cases a great physical effort by one man will succeed. In this inaugural battle Y. A. Tittle made the big play. Late in the third quarter he passed to Del Shofner over the middle for a 43-yard gain. With first and goal on the 9 the Colts blitzed, expecting another pass. Joe Morrison picked up one linebacker, Jack Stroud knocked over Marchetti, Greg Larson sat Pellington down. Seeing his receivers covered, Tittle escaped (picture above) running to his right. He motioned to throw, then headed for the red flag as Nelson (80) dove and missed, and Burkett (55), clutching ominously, pursued him to the goal (right). The halfback raced up to meet him, but just too late. Y.A. put his head down as Lyles (43) struck him on his left shoulder. The quarterback buckled and his knee came up into his chest. The men collided with a vicious impact and Tittle collapsed (below) on one precious foot of pay dirt with the ballgame safely in his hands. The Colts could not come back.





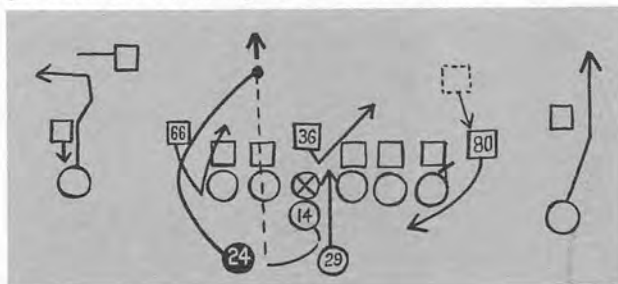


Steve Owen invented an umbrella defense but this is not it. Phil King takes scoring pass to start Giant comeback.

Play-action pays off

The Giants' first touchdown came so suddenly and easily it stunned the huge Baltimore crowd. "When I saw their safety, Andy Nelson, playing on the line on the right side I expected he would blitz and called a play-action pass in the huddle," Y. A. said. "When we got to the line it worked just right. Nelson came up and I caught them in a quick count." The diagram below shows the turning point of the game. Quarterback Tittle turns to fake running play-action to Webster (29) into the center to hold middle linebacker Bill Pellington (36) on the line. When corner linebacker Shinnick (66), on left, and safety man Nelson (80), on right, saw it was a pass they rushed Tittle. Pellington, held on the line by a fake run, cannot back up in time for pass coverage as blocking back Phil King (24), left, slips out of the backfield and angles over center completely alone for the catch and a 46-yard touchdown. (Picture above.)

"I had to wait," Bill Pellington, the rugged linebacker-coach of the Colts, admitted. "You can't move laterally or drop off and then check and stop a powerful runner like Webster with one hand. If Tittle goes to hand off to him you must set to get your shoulder into him to stop him. Then when you see it is a fake run it is tough to get back and cover a pass over the middle in time."



As the final gun sounds, Giant Coach Al Sherman clasps his hands and looks to the bleak heavens in thanksgiving.





Minnesota's favorite halfback, Tommy Mason (20) cracks the wall of white-shirted Bears behind effective blocking.

SECOND WEEK: **BEARS 28 - VIKINGS 7**

Metropolitan Stadium, Minneapolis

Minnesota has been college football crazy for years. But today, the largest crowd ever to watch a pro football game came to see their undefeated young Vikings play Chicago.

The Vikings had beaten San Francisco in their opener, and if they could knock over the Bears today the fans figured they would beat the Forty-Niners and Cardinals in their next two games. When the home crowd saw the explosive power of their darlings on the first long drive, they *knew* this was it! In the first six plays after the kickoff, Viking backs Tommy Mason and Bill Brown ground out 28 yards and two first downs and barely missed going all the way. The fans were beginning to peel the roof off the park.

On Mason's next try he fumbled and kicked the ball at Roosevelt Taylor, who ran it back to Minnesota's 26-yard line. Two plays later Bill Wade threw a short pass to Ron Bull, who went 24 yards for the touchdown. Chicago 7-Vikings 0. The fans put the roof back on.

On Minnesota's second drive, Fran Tarkenton's pass to Poage was intercepted. They didn't get the ball again until the second quarter. In the fourth quarter a critical fumble and interception led to Chicago's 28th point.

With 2 minutes and 15 seconds to go, the hero of the 1963 Rose Bowl game, Ron VanderKelen, entered the first game of his pro career. Within the minute the entire Bear bench, coach George Halas, quarterback Bill Wade, Bill George, and the rest, were on their feet watching him go. Wearing the famed number 11 of his coach, Norm Van Brocklin, the rookie quarterback from Wisconsin ran for five yards on the first play, then shot a first-down pass to Flatley, and followed with a 17-yard pass to Poage. After each play he snapped open his chin strap and licked the three fingers of his left hand. He pointed to each player in the huddle. He handed to Reed for another ten yards and a first down. He threw to Flatley for eight. Halas looked at Wade. Trapped on the next play he ran for ten more. The roof was loose again!

The rookie then missed Reed on a sure touchdown, but the Bears roughed him and the Vikings moved to the six on the penalty. Suddenly Doug Atkins, the Bears gigantic end, crashed him down for an 11-yard loss. But after licking his fingers and telling off the lineman who missed his assignment, Vandy ran for seven. One more chance. He started to run, stopped, aimed it through three Bears to Reed at the post, but missed as the gun sounded.

In the dressing room he said, "I was scared, I guess."



The fine young Viking runners, Bob Reed and Inside the 10 the rookie looks to the bench.



Some day soon...

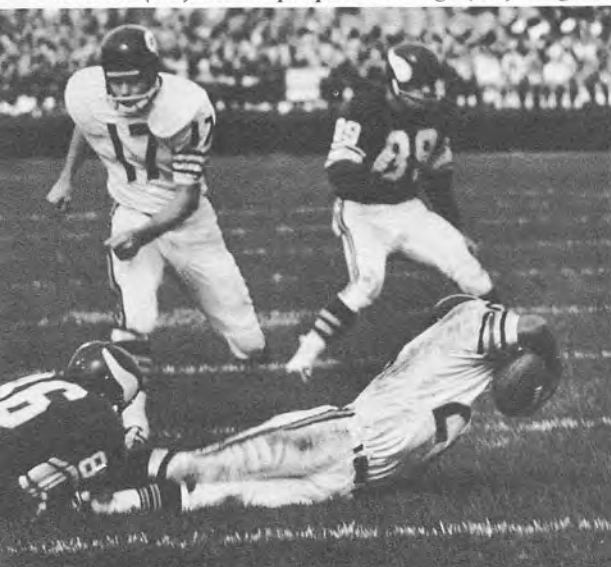
It is not certain how the Viking bandleader dresses during the week (above with his club for a baton), but on this Sunday before 40,000 Minnesota fans he was almost too much. "We moved the ball everytime," Coach Van Brocklin said, "then we made every mistake possible." The pudgy face and sour expression of the Viking coach (at right) spoke much more. "We fumbled, and threw interceptions, but the biggest mistake of all was we didn't come to play. We were flat. We were down 14-7 late in the third quarter and should have caught them easily.

Our linebackers did a bad job on pass defense. They just waited. Ditka is not that fast that he should get open. We played bean bag, not football."

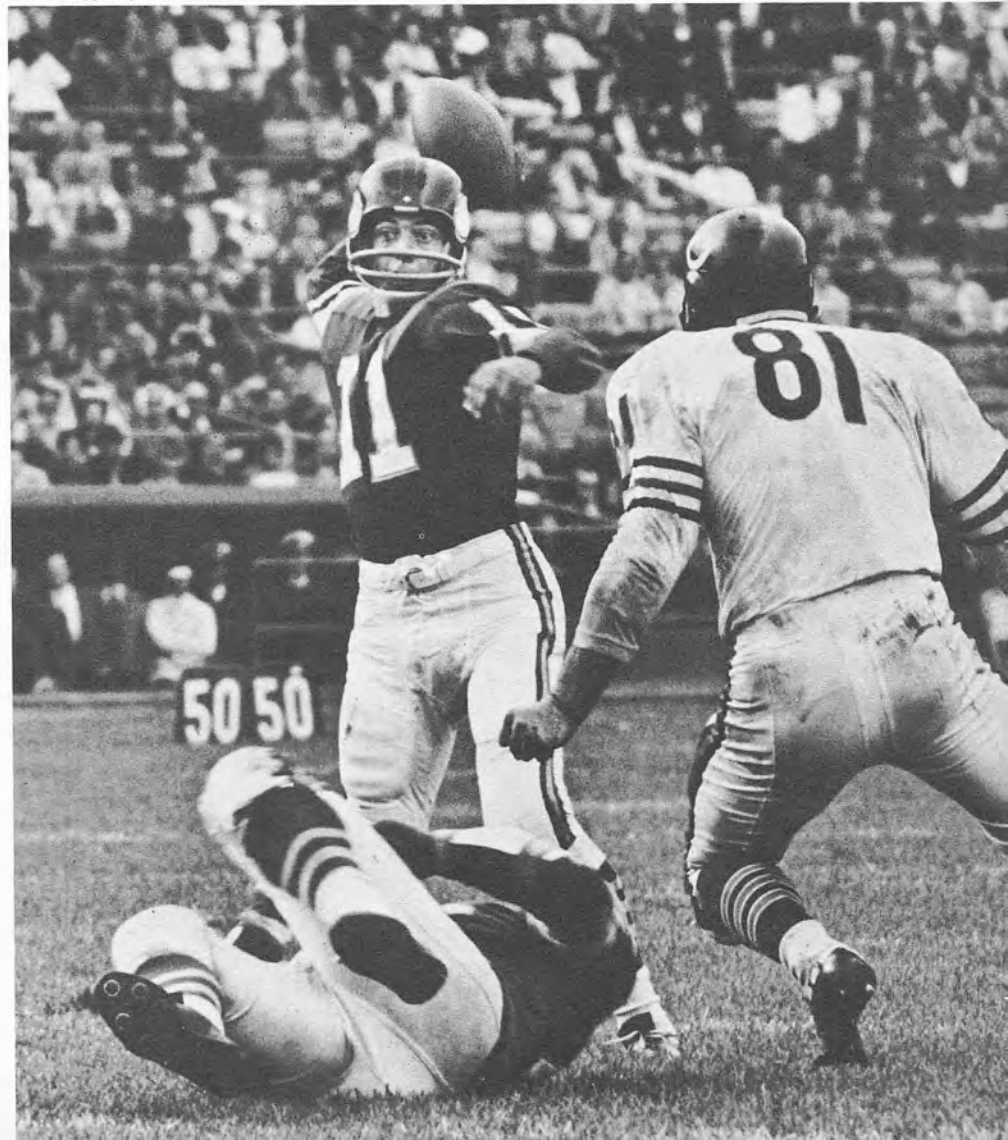
George Halas laughed later when he heard this dressing room quote. "Van Brocklin is something. He's a perfectionist. What a job he's done with this team. He's a little too critical I think. Those Vikings played a tough game. They're getting better each week. Oh my, that ball club is wonderful! They're going to have a lot of fun up here. When they reeled off those two first downs at the start of the game, I said, 'Oh, oh! Here we go.' Did you see them run right over us? We were fortunate today. The Vikings can beat anybody, any Sunday."



*fullback Bill Brown (30, above) gained 56 yards.
McRae (26) intercepts pass to Poage (86) on goal.*



*Minnesota's prize rookie end Paul Flatley (85) caught six for 61 yards.
Electrifying the crowd, VanderKelen completes his first four pro passes.*



“...eleven of us, not me alone...”

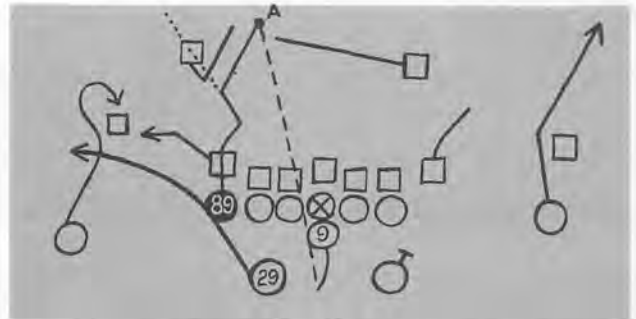
“Let me tell you, and I mean this,” Coach Sid Luckman said as he grasped Bill Wade’s hand on the armrest of the plane seat. “This man has a chance to break every record I ever put in the book for Chicago, and I want him to do it. I hope with all my heart he *does* do it. Bill is the best. He has a chance to be the greatest in our League. If I had a son I would want him to be just like Bill. He’s a great player, a leader with tremendous personal qualities, manners, spiritual dedication, and humility. You must have that. He knows it’s the other men working with him. As a quarterback you must know as he does how important those men are to you. The Bears can win the title with Bill Wade. If he plays his game week after week we will win. I thought he called a great game today. He is without question a great passer. He’s better than I was. I mean that — better than I was and he should have greater days as the Bear quarterback than I ever had.”

Wade was deeply touched because Sid Luckman’s fervor was completely genuine and convincing. Finally Wade smiled and said, “But what about your seven Championship games?” Sid shrugged. “The League was different then. There were only four teams really. The Bears, Giants, Redskins, and Packers. Today there is not one Sunday when any team in this League cannot beat any other team. This is the difference. You can’t look back in life, and *never* in football.”

“We stayed with our general game plan today,” Bill Wade began, “you can’t plan for specifics because they will always change. Wind or mud, a long runback, an injury to a key receiver or a defensive safety man, or our defense today that forced the breaks with interceptions. The fact that you don’t know the specifics, that they will always change, is what makes this game of football so fascinating. It’s like people who say they enjoy playing bridge — every hand is different! The same is true out there. I study the defense of each opponent and I know the numbers back there are individuals first, and secondly I know from long study that their defensive theory demands certain requirements of them in each situation. On each play I match what is required of them against their individual traits — then I try to beat them. Of the two, the individual traits are most important because I think I can get them into a specific situation where I know what their coverage requirements will be.

“Then it comes down to our man and theirs and what play or pattern would best match Mike Ditka’s strongest move against linebacker Rip Hawkins’ weakest, if he has a weakest. Or of the four men in the secondary, which is the most likely to make an error in this position on the field? Then I work on *him*.

“I could be in the League eight years or eighty years and I could know all the moves and all the plays that would work in every possible situation and have incredible passing accuracy and I could end up flat on my back with a 15-yard loss *if* that fullback didn’t pick up that blitzing linebacker. It is eleven of us, not me alone, and this is why the classroom work is invaluable and why the coach who is directing the study has to be aware of all the realistic playmaking conditions in order to teach football to eleven men so they think with a full depth on *every* play.”



This exceptionally quick, almost reflex mental adjustment on a play is very evident in Wade. The first touch-down pass to Ditka was a perfect example (diagram above). Wade continued, “Mike was to run an angle out (dotted line). Well, they were in a zone, which they shouldn’t have been, because it puts too much pressure on their defenders. Ditka saw a hole inside so he kept going straight (A). The safety saw him and came over and then Mike turned to see if I had picked him up. I put the pass between the two defenders.” Mike Ditka confirmed later “The pass was perfect. It split those two men by an inch. I caught it, spun around and scored. Bill can hit. He’s phenomenal and you have to be on the receiving end to really know.”

“I threw 32 passes out there,” Bill Wade concluded, “completed 23 for about 250 yards and three touch-downs, but none was intercepted. *They* were making the mistakes. When their defense gives away something you have to take advantage of it. I drew the young Viking defense offside many times today with tedious long counts. They were eager. But tactically you cannot say that on a drive you’ll use long counts down the field and inside the 10 you’ll snap on one. They will pick up all your habits. The defense will chart your frequencies and consistencies. Sometimes I set up consistencies just so I can break them. But I cannot be stereotyped, must not be. I can never say specifically what I will do in a game, or a given down-and-yardage situation. If I ever sit down and draw a circle around my set thinking then my quarterbacking days are over.”

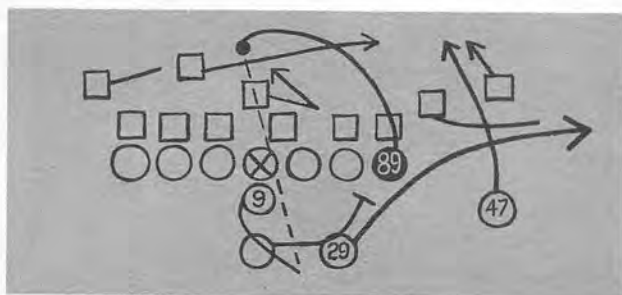


ROBERT FAGER



“Dutch is wrong . . .”

“Van Brocklin makes very few mistakes when it comes to football,” Bill Wade said crisply, “but if he said Mike Ditka should not have caught those two touchdown passes, that his linebackers did a poor job because ‘Ditka is not that fast,’ well Dutch is wrong. *Ditka is not slow.* He can outrun a great many men in this League and that is where everyone makes the mistake defending against him.” Ditka smiled. Big Mike’s round face (above left) is not exactly the prototype of the scholar’s, but he’s smart and quick as can be. “Funny thing,” Mike recalled, “Bill came to me the other day and said, ‘You haven’t been getting many passes, but when the time comes, the ball will be there.’ I had caught only three or some other silly number in all of the exhibition season and today — as Bill said, the ball was there.” He smiled. “You know, you need luck in football. On my first touchdown the pass split those defenders by an inch. On the second touchdown in the fourth quarter it was very odd. We put that play in just for this game (diagram below), and yet they reacted to it so quickly,



as if they knew exactly what was coming. The play was designed as a flare pass to our halfback, but they cornered him so fast that I had no trouble hooking back behind the goal post for the catch and touchdown. But Bill deserves the credit. When Bill was cornered he fired to me so quickly they couldn’t cover. He throws almost the perfect pass each time. Whatever speed is necessary to hit, there it is” (picture above).

The Bear charter flight home landed. Coach Halas had taken a short snooze after supper and snapped the light on above his seat. He waved to Sid Luckman and Bill Wade to come along. The happy, pretty wives were waiting at the gate. You could see the players greet them with gentle hugs. Just then there was a bunch up at the door by the pantry. Two players held another who was writhing in pain. It was so sudden that the few men left in the aisle were stunned. No one knew what had happened. Joe Fortunato! Joe was in great pain. The shot he had taken on the bench after he banged his knee on a collision in the third quarter had worn off suddenly just before landing and the knee had tightened. Fortunato was lifted down the stairs. The team doctor met him and spoke to him for a minute. Stan Jones and Rick Casares stood by and waited as the attendant brought a wheel chair. Fortunato was pushed slowly across the concrete. He sat hunched over, crying as they wheeled him away. Stan Jones turned into the brilliant light on the ramp. “That man is too tough to react like that. He must be hurting bad.” Jones shook his head and half whispered, “If we lose him, boy, we’re in trouble.”



Diving through the Cardinal line, Dick Hoak (42), Pittsburgh's talented halfback, scores the winning touchdown.

THIRD WEEK: **STEELERS 23 - CARDINALS 10**

Forbes Field, Pittsburgh

If you like football, you should have seen this one. There is rarely a game when two teams, offensively and defensively, sustain explosive impact on every play with an all-out effort by every man. As the second quarter began, Pittsburgh's defense turned the screws of the vise and gave nothing away. The huge Cardinal line, led by Owens and Henke, and the tough linebackers, Koman, Meinert, and Stallings, grudgingly held on. The tension was exhausting until the Steelers made the critical play of the game in the fourth quarter.

The Cardinals totaled 2112 yards last year passing, but today they stayed on the ground and tried to run at the Pittsburgh defense. Bill Triplett and Joe Childress carried 42 times for 111 yards. For Pittsburgh, John Henry Johnson ran well, but Dick Hoak was exceptional at halfback (picture above) with 86 yards against the stubborn St. Louis defensive line. He reminds one of Frank Gifford as a ball carrier. Don Owens played his heart out for the Cardinals at defensive tackle. He took

a terrific beating, but played the entire game. He was the last one off the field. The doctor and two trainers led him along the dirt floor of the dark dressing room tunnel, dazed and beaten. Lou Michaels' three field goals and a sustained drive by Pittsburgh late in the game finally turned the game for the Steelers.

The big change in the Pittsburgh attack this year is Ed Brown, the veteran quarterback who replaced the indomitable and irascible Bobby Layne. Brown could always fling that ball like a bullet, but his brief year under Layne was responsible for the one improvement he needed. Now Ed Brown knows what he wants. There is no indecision and floundering on play calling. He learned this from Layne, who always knew where he was going and how he would get there. It was evident today, the way Brown ran the team; the quick snap and not a single audible call in the entire game. If he can lead the Steelers to the title it will be the first time in the club's 31-year history.



If at first . . .

The pro defenses have paraphrased the old adage so that it now reads, "If at first you do succeed, look out when you try again!" The Pittsburgh fans who had trouble parking their cars never saw the play shown at left. Joe Childress carried twice for 17 yards. Then on the third play of the game with first and ten on the Cardinal 37, halfback Bill Triplett ran around left end for 63 yards and a touchdown. It was an explosive play to watch and eleven Steelers saw him go by.

Wally Lemm, the soft-spoken Cardinal coach, described the call on his team's only touchdown. "We put it in as an end run and worked it early because we wanted to make them outside conscious. We knew Tarasovic (82), their right linebacker, wasn't very fast and we thought we could beat him (first and second pictures). The play wasn't designed to go all the way, but we picked off their middle linebacker, Pottios (66) (third picture), and Triplett just outran everyone else, giving Haley (27) a stiff arm (fourth picture) on the way to the goal. Triplett is actually a rookie as an offensive halfback. He played the entire season for us last year on defense as a safety. But he's big enough and very fast and smart enough to do very well as a halfback. Most all his yardage this year has been inside. Now with this outside showing he's more dangerous. With the loss of Prentice Gautt and John David Crow, Bill and Joe Childress have saved the day. Our offense is capable all the way of winning the title, but we need consistently high performance in passing. Charley Johnson was way off today and this cost us the chance of winning. The two penalties when we're down ready to score hurt us the most. Our defense held us in the game. I think it will be a different race this year in the East. Pittsburgh has a fine defense and a ball-control type of offense that should take them right to the end."

These two pages offer the perfect example of a paradox in pro football. On the left, Bill Triplett goes 63 yards to score without being touched. On the right, Triplett is beheaded by a swarm of Steeler defensemen who stop him for no gain. Why? Both plays are designed to gain about 5 yards on paper. One went all the way, the other was disastrous. Where an outside move will succeed spectacularly in the first period it will fail in the second because of a simple switch in the keying of the linebackers and the defensive line.



In the second quarter Cordileone (74), Michaels (79), Pottios (66), Russell (36), and Haley (27) crush Triplett.

Man with 2 hats

Through the leaping maze of white Cardinal jerseys stares the rugged face of Lou Michaels, his eyes watching the ball rise between the posts for the 57th field goal of his 6-year pro career. A little lower are the cleats of his left shoe. Michaels is the only left-footed kicker in the League. "I never wear a face mask kicking. I get greater visibility without a mask. Last year every time I tried a field goal I would borrow Bobby Layne's helmet because he was the only player in the League who didn't wear a mask. With Layne gone this year I need two hats. One with the full face guard when I'm in the defensive line, and the open one when I kick points. I just stick it on and never even fasten the chin strap."

Lou Michaels is a beefy giant who plays defensive end for the Steelers and helps keep Pittsburgh's incessant pressure on the opposing quarterback. When Pittsburgh's offense decides to try for three points he comes in to kick field goals. He has kicked 7 this season and last year led the NFL with a record 26. The hidden error in the Cardinal offense today was the failure of rookie Bob Paremore to return any kickoffs or handle Ed Brown's punts. Michaels was asked if he kicked intentionally to the rookie after the first bobble. "No, I never do that," he replied. "I always try to kick it as far as possible out of the end zone to prevent any runback at all. It's a soft touch just to kick. When you're a specialist in this game you never get tired. But if you play both ways, play the entire game at defensive end and kick too, then you have the added pressure. If you blow a kick then you have to play *all the harder* at end. This can be a great incentive at times and I find myself giving one or the other an extra effort. Kicking left-footed field goals has no effect on the blocking of our lines or the defensive rush. They block the same and you kick straight. I just move over to the opposite side of the man holding."

Coach Buddy Parker concurred on a basic law. "You've got to have the big kicker to win — especially for us — a ball-control team." The Steeler head coach's acid expression was replaced with the contented smile of a man who knows he has a good chance to win. "We're a running team. We played our game. We caught them with the quick count all afternoon. Ed Brown got over Nutter and it was go — quick hike — no count. They were shifting in that line say from a 6-1 to a gap, and the quick snap caught them in between two defenses. It gave them no time to get set. The primary reason for our success is our defense. This is the first season since I've been here that our defensive unit is set."







Cheerleader screams



as Pittsburgh's Buddy Dial (84) makes fantastic key catch,



then flips her pretty wig.

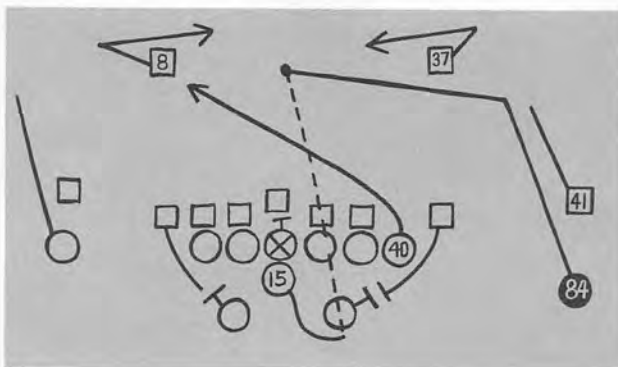
Breakthrough

As the fourth quarter began, the Steelers were down 10-6. Ed Brown punted after Robb blitzed and caught him for a 13-yard loss. The Cardinals punted after Cordileone smashed through and dumped Johnson for a 10-yard loss on his 15. Brady Keys brought the punt back 10 yards to the Pittsburgh 44 with twelve minutes remaining. Hoak and Ferguson ran hard for two first downs to the Cardinal 25. Then Ed Brown passed 16 yards to Buddy Dial who leaped high, twisted, and came down on his head with the ball tucked in his right arm (center picture above). The cheerleaders flipped and the crowd roared at the breakthrough which they knew was finally at hand. Hoak got two, a St. Louis offside

put the ball on the 3, and then on the second try at the left side of the Cardinal line, Hoak shot through for the touchdown that proved to be decisive.

Buddy Dial, elated after the win, described the play (diagram left). "I ran from the right side and made my cut deep. The tight end came in close and Ed Brown put it between Fischer and Hill. It takes everything you've got to beat that secondary. Jimmy Hill is the best defensive back in pro football. There's no question about that."

Ernie Stautner was tying his tie, his combed hair dripping water down his face after his quick shower. "The spirit here is fantastic. The best it has ever been in the 14 years I've been on the club. There is just no question about it. This is a team. They're playing together. They never lose their composure. A quick score doesn't rattle them as in years past. Today Triplett's long touchdown run didn't upset them. They got the defenses going. They started to put on the pressure and they stayed in there until the offense finally got together in the fourth quarter, and *this* is the mark of a winning team. It's easy to go out there and rip when everything is going your way. It's something else to play your game when you're behind for 50 minutes and then force them to crack."





Baltimore's John Unitas, looking like General Custer, unloads a long pass as the huge Bear linemen circle for the kill.

FOURTH WEEK: **BEARS 10 - COLTS 3**

Wrigley Field, Chicago

The headline in the Chicago paper the day before the game read, PLEASE STAY AWAY. The long-time, old-line Chicago Bear fans were ready once again for a big year. There were no tickets left for this season opener on a roasting hot October afternoon.

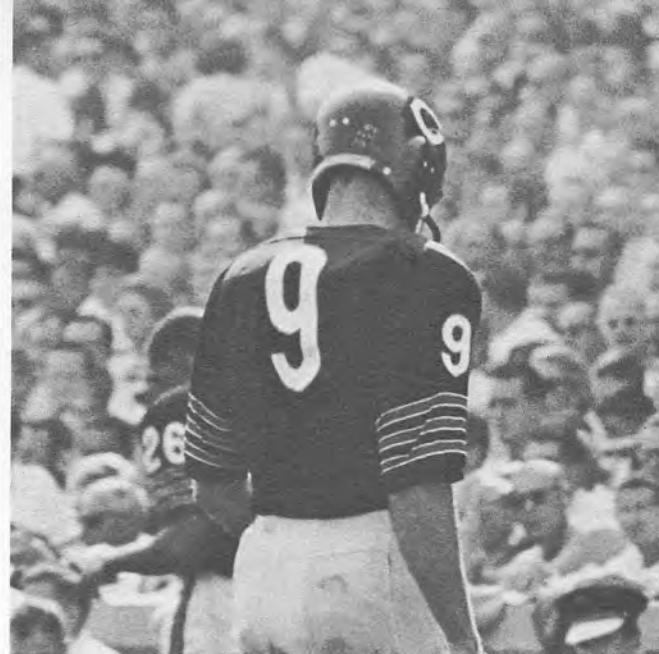
The Colts arrived in town and everyone agreed they hadn't a ghost of a chance. Today John Unitas would not only have to suffer the outrageous misfortune of dealing with the great Chicago defensive rush (picture above), but his two best receivers, Raymond Berry and Jimmy Orr, would be sitting on the bench. Berry was out with a shoulder separation and Orr with a groin injury. Losing Berry and Orr is like losing Shofner and Gifford, Dowler and McGee, or Conrad and Randle. You just can't do it in this League, especially if you're a passing team. Lenny Moore, released from the hospital after his appendectomy, was forced back into action for the third game in Green Bay, and being neither sharp nor strong, dropped the winning pass in the end zone. Today he would be off his game again. As one Baltimore newspaperman put it, "I'm going up to the press box, and turn my chair around. I'm afraid to look."

But as happens so many times in football, the team that is down and hurting meets the strong club on an off day and the pitiful twist is that with just a little luck and effort it could have won. The Baltimore defense was superb even though the great Marchetti and Captain Bill Pellington were below par with injuries. They caught Chicago on an off day when Bill Wade just couldn't complete a pass. Wade and Mike Ditka had a private catch down by the ivy wall before the game. Wade seemed troubled and pressing even then, but it almost went unnoticed. It was to be the last catch they had all afternoon. Bill Wade threw eight incomplete passes before making his first strike — a desperate underhand toss to Casares for a 1-yard gain. Then after one successful throw to Marconi he threw seven more duds. Fifteen incompletions, and Ditka dropped eight. The ninth one to big Mike was intercepted by Welch. However, the Bear defense hung on.

Unitas was exposed to a merciless Bear blitz all day. Hampered by lack of running power on third down, and hurt by three offensive interference penalties in the first quarter, the Colts could not sustain any drives or score.



Raymond Berry instructs rookie John Mackey (88) on patterns.



A disconsolate Bill Wade leaves the game and

Welcome to Chicago and may all your

Momentum you can't buy. It is the hardest thing to achieve on a football field and once you have it, it is the most difficult element in football to stop. John Unitas could not get the Colts going. There is no consistent execution on the Baltimore offense and Unitas can only play with ten men who are hitting on every play. He thrives on perfection regardless of the odds or the pressures. When fullback Lockett could not make it on the

ground and his receivers could not run just enough for the first down after catching the short passes, there was a feeling of futility that was evident in the great quarterback's every gesture. One of the Colt backs on the bench implored, "Okay, let's get some desire!," as if desire were something you could pick up and put on like an icepack.

The plain clothesmen on the Baltimore bench: Ray-





receives a pat on the back from Coach Halas.



Jimmy Orr describes a maneuver to replacement Willie Richardson.

first downs be three inches short...!

mond Berry with his thick glasses and his arm in a sling under his shirt, just wiggled one of his wonderful hands free to hold a clip board and check plays with young Mackey (above left). Jimmy Orr, hobbled by a leg injury and dressed in a brown business suit, looked like anything but a flanker back as he bent over the huge padded Richardson to try to improve his moves against the tough Bear secondary.

The heat was unbearable, as it always is when things are going against you, and Jim Welch (below left) with three ice bags on his belly and one on his face, shields the sun with a wet towel on his head. His helmet is his pillow, the bench his footrest. The ice bags are aqua and pink with little red roses. At right veteran Jim Parker, once a great tackle and now a great guard, hides his discontent behind the bandaged hands of his trade.



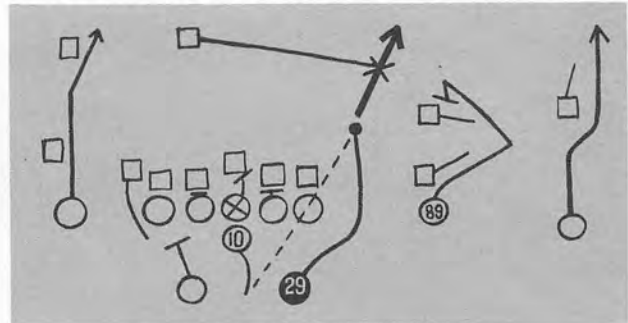




Bull's Eye!

Rudy Bukich was sent in to replace Bill Wade at quarterback and he fired up the Bear offense. On the first play he called a draw and Rick Casares ran hard for 30 yards. His first pass was completed to Ditka and the roar was astounding. Then he hit Farrington on two identical deep square-outs for 37 yards, only to have Jencks' field goal attempt fail.

The next time Roodie, as his teammates call him, turned the trick. Morris and Marconi ran for two first downs, then Johnny Morris caught another over center on the Baltimore 23. After the Bears drew a holding penalty, Bull lost seven yards trying to turn left end. Expecting a pass, the Colts had their safety men deep. The Bears came out strong right with Ditka (89) split five yards off the tackle, and the Colt linebacker came out with him. On the snap Bukich started to move to his right, and then hit Ron Bull short and quick. The brilliant halfback described the game's only touchdown. "I ran a look-in pattern (diagram below). At the snap of the ball Burkett tried to hold up Ditka who caused him to turn his back so he did not see me. Then Mike moved downfield and threw the key block on the half-



back. I had just one man to beat, Andy Nelson, and I leaped as he dove at my cleats (picture left) and then headed for the goal, home free."

To John Unitas, a temporary requiem. On the field he watched as everything went wrong, or started to go right only to have a penalty ruin it, or the first-down tries miss by inches. The Colts have no fire. The great quarterback today had no one to throw to and no time to do it. Good night, sweet prince, you deserve a better fate. And good night to you, Alan Ameche, wherever you are.

To Chicago, a prediction of a long successful season. The loyal Chicago fans waited patiently for a score today and when it came their faces and uninhibited gestures told the story of this important Bear victory (next page).





Cleveland's Jim Brown (32) takes handoff from quarterback Ryan to follow a freight train of blockers around end.

FIFTH WEEK: **BROWNS 35 - GIANTS 24**

Yankee Stadium, New York

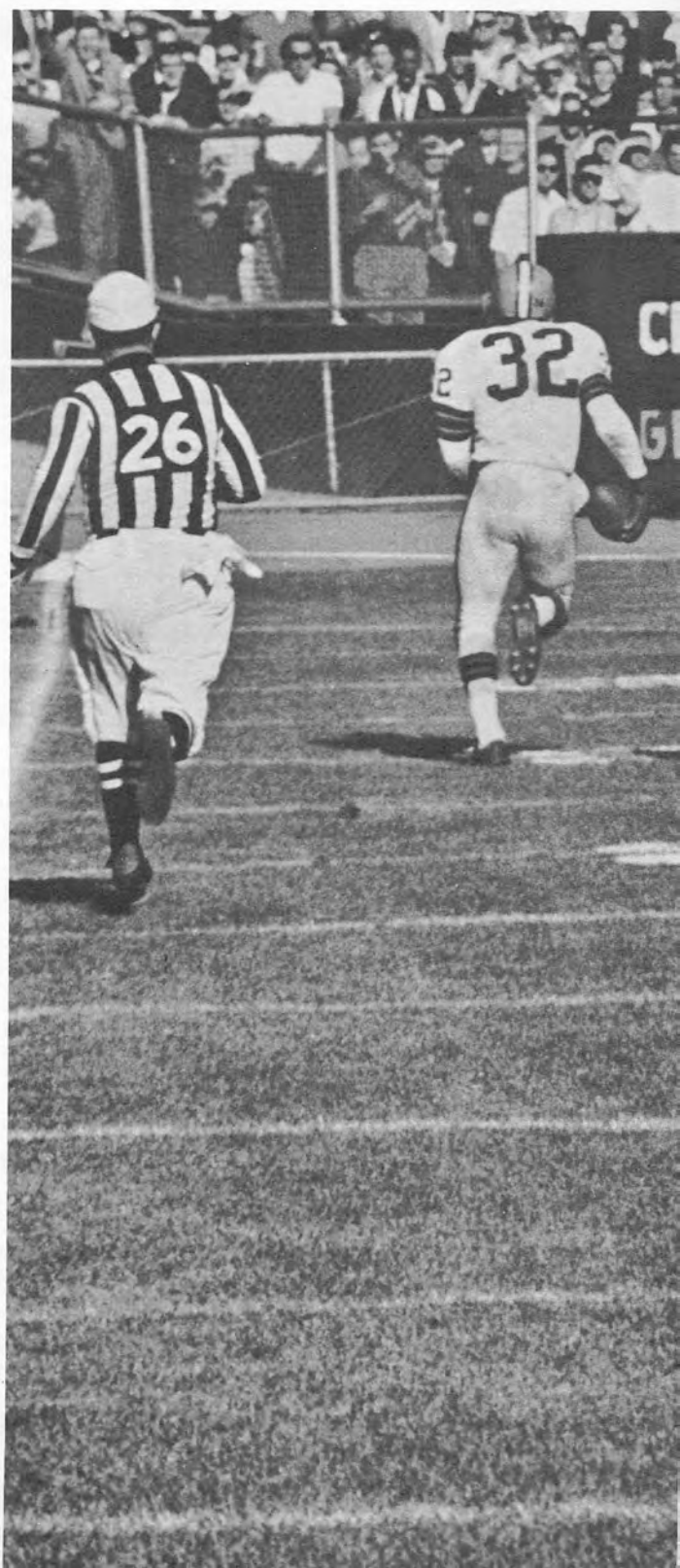
On Thursday a call was put through from New York to Cleveland's president, Arthur Modell. He had just returned from practice and is so devoted to the team that if he were a foot taller and a hundred pounds heavier he would undoubtedly want to play. He answered in the tone that most club presidents have three days prior to a big game — Thursday nervous. "Before the game? Positively you cannot see Jim Brown before the game! Our plane gets to New York late. No one sees him. The boy must be left alone." On Sunday during the first half the Giants' defense, led by Robustelli, LoVetere, Huff, Modzelewski, and Katcavage, did not leave Jim Brown alone. During the second half, Jim Brown left *them* alone. All alone far back down the field.

The game was a fight. It was like two big fighters in the ring. One man pounds the other for five rounds hitting him again and again, and then the other fighter throws one left hand to the head and lands and everything changes right then. Jim Brown's knockout punch was quick and decisive, and the 62,000 fans welcoming the Giants home for their 39th season in the NFL will long remember the magnificent fullback's three touchdowns. In Cleveland's dressing room after the game a silent

mob of reporters stared at Jim Brown's every move as he painfully shuffled out of the trainer's room. In his deep articulate voice he summed up the game. "In the first half they really hit me. I'll say they did — all of them. It was just like the past six years in New York. That Giant defense busted us up good. I've always wanted to do well in New York. Today I got over 200 yards, *but* this was the roughest, hardest game I've ever had in the six years I've been playing. But one thing is different. Under our new coach, Blanton Collier, it is the first time we came to New York to do battle and have not had to worry about internal problems."

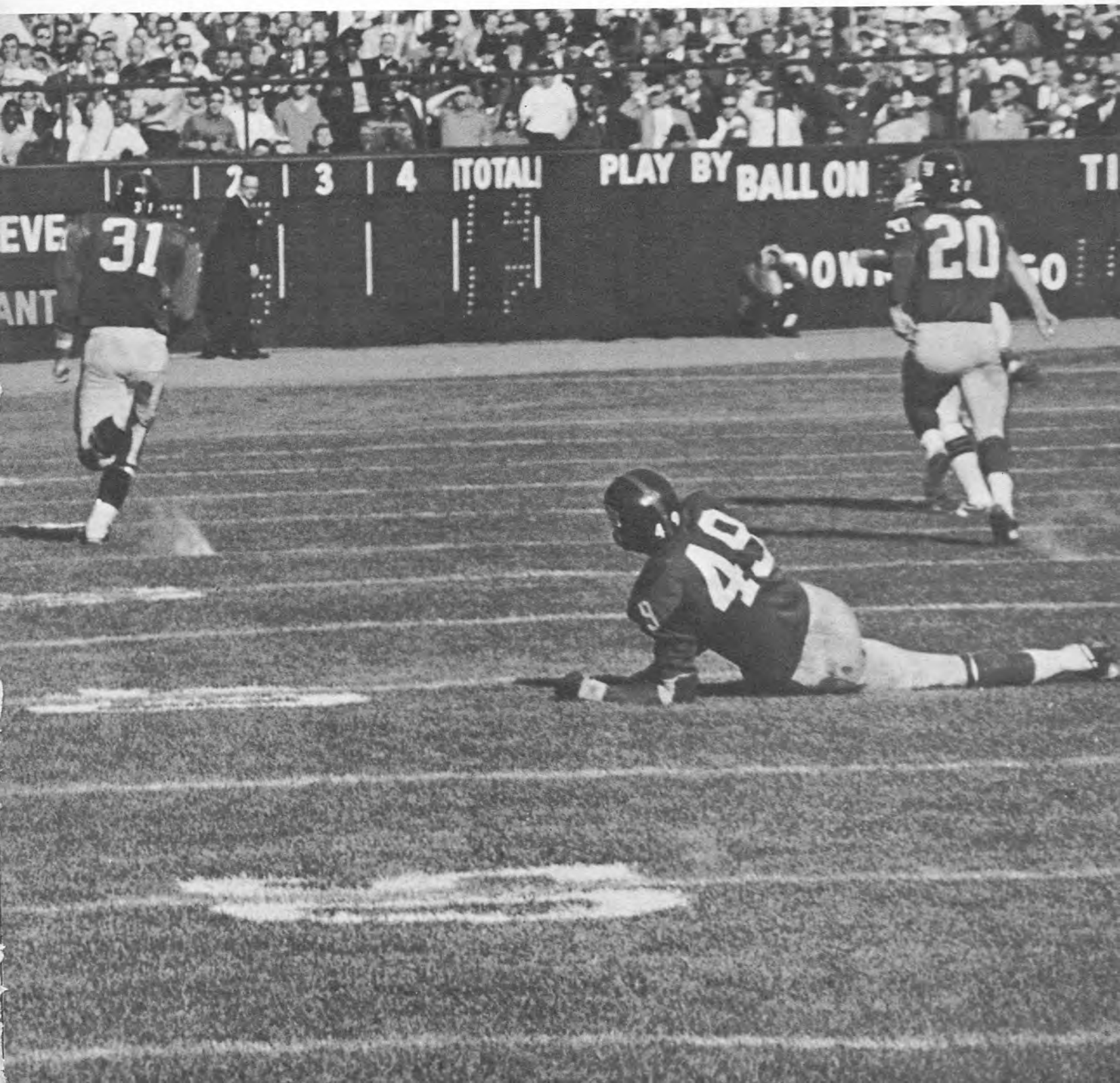
He stood up and the trainer helped him slowly pull a dress shirt over his bruised right arm, which was wrapped in heavy elastic. Then he eased into his gray vest and jacket. He moved as if he were encased in plaster. (All the fans driving home from the park were talking and thinking of him flashing downfield in the golden October sunlight.) Now it took him minutes to walk across the dressing room. "As far as the Championship is concerned I'd have to say at this point we should win it. The way I look at it, *we* could have won the Eastern title *each of the six years* I've been in the League."

Inside
or
Outside



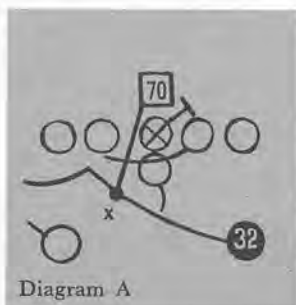
When the Giant goal-line defense, led by John LoVetere (76, left) could not be moved, Jim Brown scored his first touchdown by leaping over the top. But the turning point of the game was an outside run of 72 yards in the third period. "That play was our 85 flare screen," the fullback explained. "There is no fake. Frank Ryan just drops back, turns and throws to me as I flare out 15 yards to my left. The three linemen, tackle, guard, and center move across flat and fast. They don't hold as long or drop back as on a straight screen. I took the pass at $\frac{3}{4}$ speed,

then came inside a little. Two of our men took care of Scott on the outside. Huff was ten yards deep and as he came up I gave him a slight fake inside and then veered to the outside and ran right by him. As I went into high gear Barnes (49) dove and missed and I went straight down the sideline (picture below). I was only conscious of Patton (20) being there, but I felt he never saw me. He was turned to the inside on our flanker. Winter (31), the linebacker, chased me to the goal, but it was just a matter of outrunning him."



“My philosophy is to advance the ball”

“Early in the game,” Jim Brown confided, “I was lined up in my 6 position behind the offside tackle (diagram A). I’d take the handoff and have to move across (x) but Sam Huff was shooting over center and he would be into the backfield before I got to the strong side. At the start of the second half on the sideline I suggested to Frank Ryan that we run the same plays, especially our option 7, from a 2 formation where I line up directly behind the center (diagram B). The two of us were the only ones who knew of the change. Now if Huff shot in over center I would be two steps closer to the hole and he would be a step behind me even if he came in clear. This slight adjustment made a big difference.



“On the third touchdown run of 32 yards I ran from the 2 spot and had three options: over center, off tackle, or outside. I went outside because that’s where it was. Robustelli gave it a half inside move reacting to my start inside, then as I swung wide the tackle got him. Green put a good block on the linebacker who closed in. When I saw the outside open I knew it would go. Once you turn that end — Robustelli is the key — you know you have five yards. If your halfback gets the linebacker, you know you’ve got ten. I got by both of them. Now which way? I saw three of them coming across fast from my right. But behind them across the field I saw three of my own blockers. I knew if I dropped a shoulder and went straight I would get the first down, but when I turned that end I cut back because I wanted to break it all the way. I cut sharply and ran 30 yards across the field and I caught them all going the wrong way. I picked up my blockers and they just chopped the rest of that defense down as I opened up.

“This is not a planned play. I cut back because I saw the blockers across field. On an icy field or in mud you could never work a play like this. When you cannot dig in, you have no balance. Mud is no trouble for a big slow man. He runs just the same, but a bad field for a fast man cuts him in half. Mud is a great advantage to those big defensive linemen. A fast man needs a fast

track and the track was fast today. Bobby Mitchell and I used to love to play in Philadelphia. For some reason that’s a fast track, real fast. Dallas is too. Love it! Cleveland’s a slow track. Just awful. They have that bent grass there and when you go to dig in it just pulls out in a big tuft. On a fast track I can use all my speed and abilities as a runner and those big linemen are in their place. Fast track, advantage mine!

“Balance is the whole thing in running. Each situation calls for the use of a number of different abilities. To veer, slide, cut back, side step, spin, jump, drop a shoulder and hit, use a forearm, run all out. I must run in that balanced position wherein I can use any one of these abilities instantly. I have a philosophy as a runner. It is to advance the ball, to get to the goal. Nothing more, and you do it every way you can. Five different ways on five touchdowns. Six on one play if necessary.

“Now, I did not do very much out there today. Those blockers set it all up for me. I never was touched on those two long touchdown runs. I figure I have to bounce off and bust through two or three defensive men and carry a few on my back for me to make a run. But, I will take it this way. I have no set image as a runner that I’m trying to establish in the public mind. I don’t feel that I have to run *into* tacklers. I don’t feel that if I drop a shoulder and hit them with all my force and knock them on their backs or carry them for five yards that they are so faint-hearted that the next time I come their way they are going to step aside. You don’t hurt a defensive man when you hit him. You hurt him more when he misses you. His job is to stop you and when he comes up empty, that is where the pain is. He’s got to answer for that one. It’s his job. I’ve asked my own defensive players this, I’ve given them the choice. They all agreed they would prefer me to run at them.

“When I report to camp in July I’m not ready to run. It takes me six weeks before I am ready, before my reflexes are sharp and my timing is there, and it is a matter of intelligence in running, of knowing all the possibilities of what will happen when you run inside or off tackle or outside. Running inside is what gets you ready and sharpens you. You have to be quick inside. The hole lasts but a flicker and there is no room. In the old days the great runners may have run instinctively alone, but not in this League today. You have to know *where* you’re going, what *should* happen and what *may* happen when you get there and then what your move will be and put them all together in a split second, until you break into that secondary and can step out.”





3rd down errors

Emlen Tunnell, the all-time defensive great and now the New York coach and scout, was heartsick after the Giant loss. "Those men back there are too smart to play the way they did. We lost the game on mental errors in the secondary. Ryan beat us with those third-down passes every time. Our men just weren't thinking. Erich Barnes and Jimmy Patton have more physical ability than I ever had, but even when I was playing at 36 and 37 if I made a mistake it was a physical error, not a mental error. *You cannot make a mistake.* There is no excuse on third down to be playing deep and outside. You know that quarterback is not going to throw it long. We had a blitz on so he dumps those dinky short passes over center and beats us. This third-down play in the secondary is drummed home again and again at training camp until it becomes a part of you. The Giant defenders are all experienced and smart and it is a shame to see them lose like that."

Grabbing Dick Lynch near his locker, Tunnell admonished him sternly. "Dick, you better pull those guys together. Get them thinking together. If you win the next two you have a chance. There is a long way to go. But if you lose another the newspapers are going to start to tear you apart and that is an added burden. You know if you win it will be that secondary who will do it. It was too bad. The line played well. You let them down with third-down errors and it cost you the game."

The Giant coach, Al Sherman, looked at the game realistically. "This is the best game we've played to date despite our mistakes. I'm glad that everyone has finally discovered Jimmy Brown. This year he has a pretty good ball club in front of him. If you think they have won the Championship now after the fifth game, I don't. People ask me what about next time, the return meeting with Cleveland. Well, in this League there is no next time. Next time in this League is Monday morning at 9 a.m. when you work on the team you play *next week*. For us it's Dallas."

Halfback Dick Lynch (22) artfully one-hands an interception in the first quarter to score the Giants' initial touchdown (top). Frank Ryan (13, center), runs out of the pocket and Andy Robustelli's clutches for a first down. Y. A. Tittle (bottom) is sandwiched between Cleveland's rush men, Gain (79) and Wiggin (84) as his pass falls dead.



The thin bird legs of Sonny Randle fly off after a catch, leaving Green Bay's Jesse Whittenton with empty hands.

SIXTH WEEK: **PACKERS 30 - CARDINALS 7**

Busch Stadium, St. Louis

A sellout crowd in St. Louis had come to cheer on their first-rate Cardinal team with the brassy blast and horsey yell: "Charge!" They had come to see their red shirts stop the worn out Green Bay hasbeens, who had an ordinary 4-1 second-place record. What they saw was the World Champion Packers. Nothing more, nothing less — well, almost nothing less.

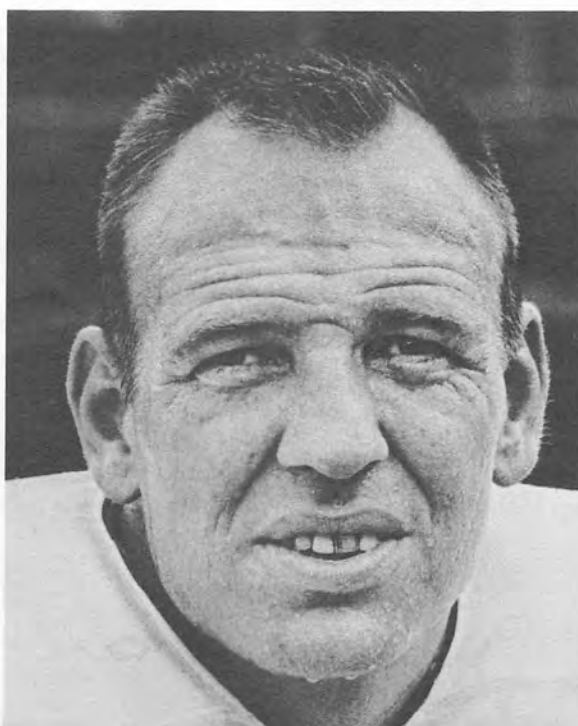
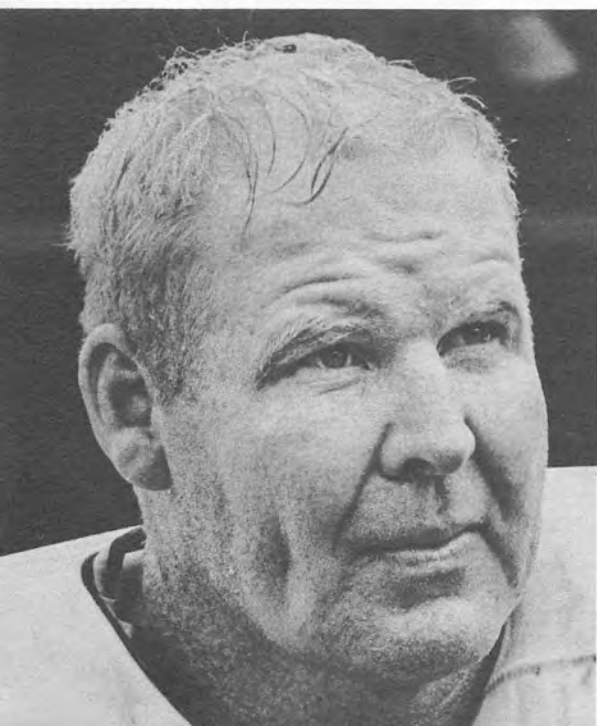
It was figured that the one way the Cardinals could beat the Packers was to pass them dizzy. No one could run inside against Green Bay and the Cardinals did not have enough outside speed. But in Sonny Randle and Bobby Joe Conrad they had two of the best receivers in the League. In the past two games alone, St. Louis had moved for a total 1045 yards, 334 yards *passing* one week, 408 yards *passing* the next. But the Cardinals chose to run the ball. They threw only 8 passes in the first half, did not score, and fell 21 points behind.


In the fourth quarter, with their team behind 30-7, there was an eerie silence in the park. Charley Johnson had been frustrated by the relentless rush all afternoon and as he brought the team up to the line in the closing

minutes, you could see his listlessness after a long day of scrambling. As one lady from St. Louis phrased it: "It always seemed when we had the ball, Green Bay had more than 11 men on the field."

Jim Taylor scored two touchdowns for the Packers his first full time back in the lineup. He was completely exhausted after the game and admitted it. "I'm bushed now. I'm just not in shape. I haven't played enough. One thing was important. When Bart was hurt and John Roach went in on the next series we fired off that ball better than we have all year. That pulled us together."

The cohesiveness of Green Bay's famous running attack has been altered. Without Paul Hornung and with a weakened Taylor, the famed image is gone. They no longer can call their own shots on the ground. Today the less spectacular performances of Tom Moore, Earl Gros, and Elijah Pitts seemed only adequate. The old adage in sports that you can never replace a super star is evident in the Green Bay backfield. You can replace a great player with manpower, but Hornung's inspirational value is gone.





“They’re tougher and we’re older...”

These are the faces of the men — the faces of some of the greatest football players who ever played the game, the faces of the Champion Green Bay Packers in the year of their try for a record third straight world title. These are the remarkably intense, exhausted faces everyone has heard about — but under the gruelling heat of battle, and unmasked for a moment on the bench, who can identify them all? These portraits were taken in less than one minute in the third quarter when Green Bay was leading 23-0, but there is no elation. The smiles and wisecracks and pepperpot shouts are years past. These are veterans suffering a long, arduous Sunday afternoon.

“They’re tougher and we’re older,” Coach Vince Lombardi said thoughtfully as he left the steaming-hot dressing room in St. Louis. “That offense was tired at the end. The first half wore them down. The defense was only in for 14 plays. We planned nothing special. We played our normal defensive game. We *did* need the rush on Johnson and we got it. This was the big test for Jim Taylor. He only played a few minutes in previous games. He just has not been strong enough and I think he will never be the same as he once was. Too much has gone out of him. Mentally we still come up for the big games and I think we can win again this year if we stay whole. Right now Bart’s hand looks bad.”

Bart Starr gently protects his fractured right hand.

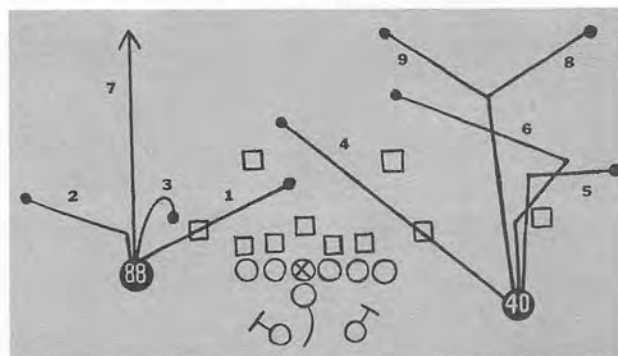




Double Trouble

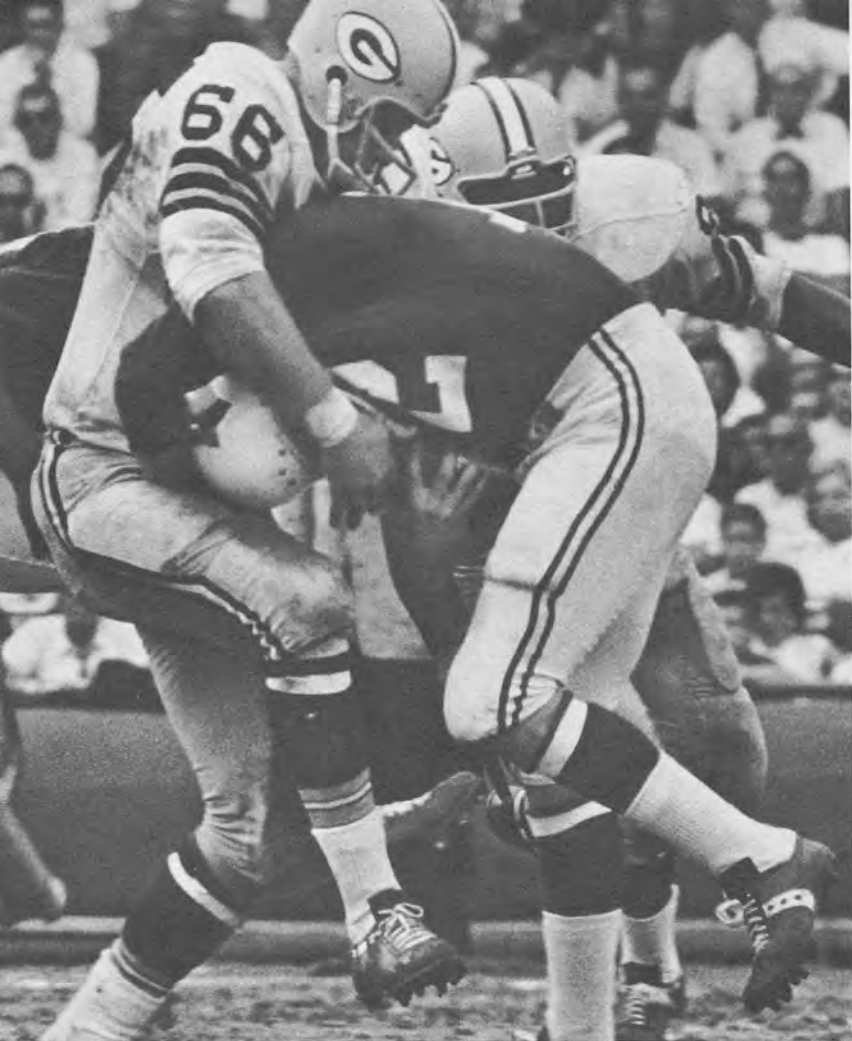
Norb Hecker, the Packers' affable young coach who schools Green Bay's talented secondary, analyzed the major defensive objective of the game. "Well, we were fortunate," and he silently whistled. "In the first half they threw only eight passes. I guess they thought they could run against us. Then when they had to throw in the second half, our rush was so strong it made their quarterback's passing ineffective. You must rush Johnson (12, left) because if you give him time to throw he will complete 90% of his passes every Sunday. Our rush men, Jordan, Nitschke, and Davis gave him no time! Unquestionably, Bobby Joe Conrad and Sonny Randle are the two best receivers in the League simply because both men can beat you *on every pattern!* Many receivers in the League are exceptional on some patterns but weak on others. These two will wreck you on *all!* That is why they are so dangerous."

Plotting the lanes (diagram below) Hecker explained his point. "On the three short routes: the slant over the middle (1), the flare-out (2) and the hook (3), they excel. On the middle-distance patterns: the cross-over (4) and the deep square-out (5), they will beat any defenders, and they both are murder on the "Z" (6) and fly (7). On the very deep corners (8) and posts (9) they are in a class by themselves. Conrad's touchdown came on a post, but he still had to fight his way over. Therein lies their real ability. They know what to do when they catch that football. They really move with it.



"Defensively we knew this and all week and at half-time we alerted our defense. Our secondary played them man-to-man all day. We never went into a zone against them once. That's what those two feast on. They killed Pittsburgh with a zone. They hitch so fast they split those zone defenders and then Johnson will pass you out of the park. You've got to play them man-to-man. Ad-derley (26), on Conrad (40, picture right), ran out of the right side *all* day, and Whittenton on Randle on the left. *But* the rush on Charley Johnson was their undoing. We nullified their great receivers with our incessant pressure on their quarterback."





Intensity

"There is only one way to play this game and that is to hit all out. To give it anything less would be suicide." This is part of the Lombardi credo. Pro football is the perfect game because it combines intelligence and physical power in perfect balance. One wonders how the reverberations of each incredible collision can be measured. *Charley Johnson is crumpled by the heavy hand of red-dogging Ray Nitschke (66, above left).* Violence is the wrong word. It does not describe the power of pro football. *Intensity* is the word. On this afternoon the entire pattern of pro football's perfection was exemplified in the sustained intensity of the play. *A 260-pound defensive tackle (below) is airborne with his crowbar forearm aimed at Bart Starr's exposed neck after the quarterback has been dumped with the ball. It is presumed that this spill accidentally caused the fracture of Starr's throwing hand, not the incident a few plays later when he was caught on the sidelines.*

The tribute to the players is that in their training and dedication and coaching they can physically bring themselves to sustain this fever momentum for a game, a week, a gruelling season, and yet hold in balance the mental precision of playmaking — the right move in a fraction of a second — again and again. Few know the pro football player today. The game they play is not for the gray-faced, soft-bellied, or slow-witted. *The tacklers close in like wolves to get a piece of fullback Jim Taylor (31, below left). His mask, his arm, a leg, the ball. This is the price a runner pays for the times he makes it untouched. It is fair trade.*

Pro football is the name of the game, and in this League you point your nose at the goal and go.





The instant of the most critical play of the game: Jim Brown (32) fumbles on second play as Sam Huff (70) recovers.

SEVENTH WEEK: **GIANTS 33 - BROWNS 6**

Municipal Stadium, Cleveland

This game was the turning point for Cleveland and New York. The 84,000 fans in the lakeside stadium will never forget the pressure of the Giant defense and the flawless execution of their offense, led by quarterback Y. A. Tittle. The Browns were undefeated coming into this game and suddenly, unbelievably for them, the party was over.

Cleveland quarterback Frank Ryan's cheekbones were red from the early-game belts of Katcavage and LoVetere. "That was the most aggressive defensive line I've faced in my six years of pro ball. It seems they had their minds made up when they came on that field. Our plan was to establish our running. We feel this is our primary objective in every game. *We ran three offensive plays and were behind 10-0!* On second and ten after a pass failed we ran a trap and Jim Brown went seven yards and I think would have gone 77 yards for a touchdown, but LoVetere rolled off a block and grabbed his arm, and the ball came loose (picture above). Then they kicked off and Jim Brown carried on three running plays for nine yards . . . so we punted. They drove 86 yards and scored. *After we had run six offensive plays we were losing 17-0!* Golly, at this point I had to get some momentum generated with 20-yard passes or go down the drain. Then

when I had to pass, my receivers were so well covered their line had all the time to get to me. It's the law of the jungle," the tall, gray-flecked scholar remarked. "When I'm trapped I just run for my life. Today I could not get free to run.

"Our coaches keep a 'breakdown' count on each game, that number of times our pass protection blocking breaks down. In a tough average game it's four times. Today they say it broke down 19 times."

Sam Huff, who played a remarkable game, described the success of the Giant defense. "When Brown fumbled (above) that was a big play and when they went to pass, Jimmy Patton intercepted (next page). That was another big play right behind it. These are the defensive breaks we just haven't been getting until today. It seems we have been right there in the early games, but we didn't make that critical defensive play. Today we did. But it didn't start today. We rode into this game off the second half of the Dallas game last week when everything just fell into place. We started then on defense to execute. Today we were riding in on the crest of that wave. We rode right over them."

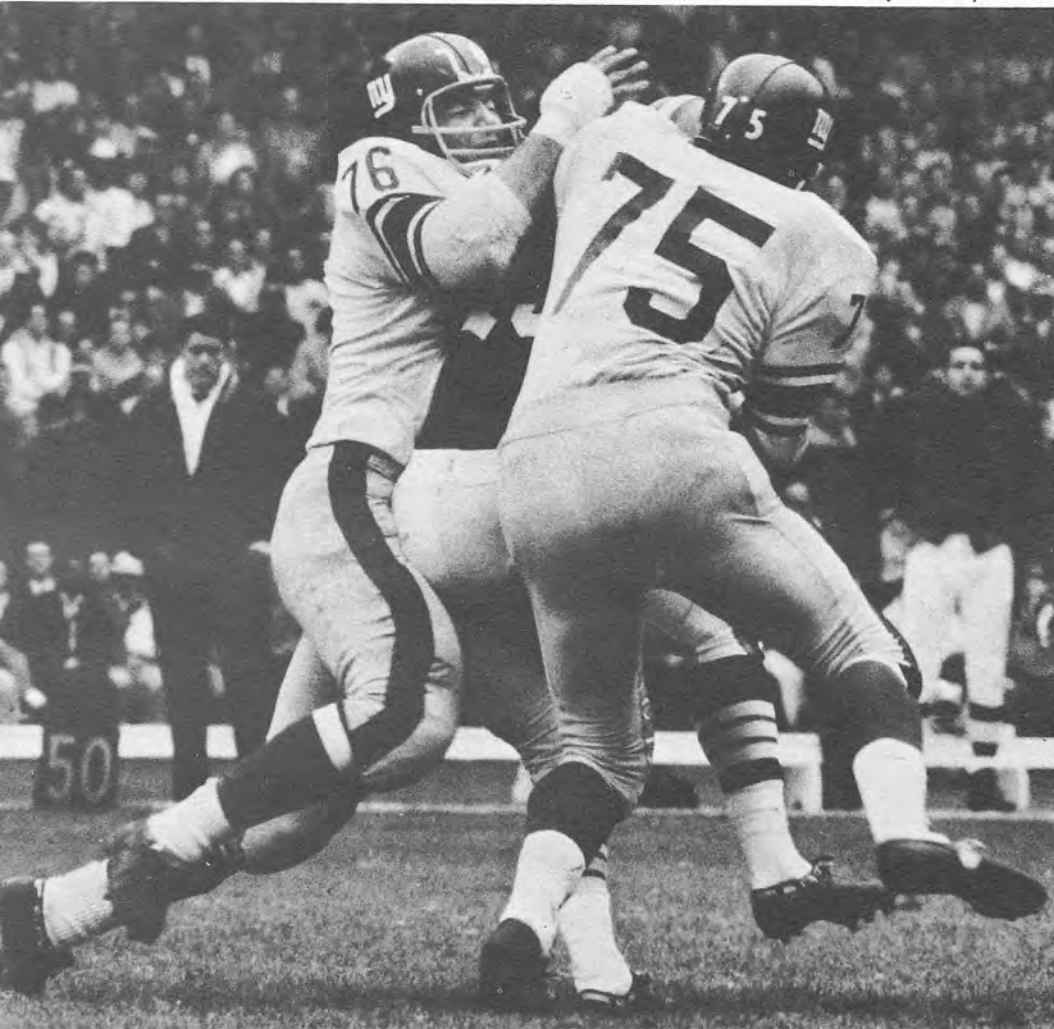
Perfect Defense

"You can never build a *perfect* defense," Coach Al Sherman admitted. "There is too much pressure on each man to make them responsible for everything. It is not realistic. You build to strengths. You rush their passer. You contain them inside. You play a strong physical game. You leave their lesser strengths uncovered completely. Today we stopped their running and their passer completed *one pass in nine* for a *minus-six yards*."

On the Giant bench in the second quarter when they were leading 23-0, Andy Robustelli admonished each of his men in a calm and steady way. "Never mind the score. Hold it down out there. Keep your poise. Keep playing your game. Don't let them get anything started!" Poise is the hallmark of great teams. The Giants know that if they can keep their poise they will muster all their intelligence and skill to win. The captain smiled after the game. "We did nothing different," Robustelli said. "In the first game we were too aggressive. We lost our overall perspective. We were one step too fast and they ran by us. Today our plan was to rush Ryan and make him throw in a hurry. This we felt would break them down."



Giants LoVetere (76) and Katcavage (75) squash Frank Ryan on first run.



Although 27 points ahead, Sam Huff





blocks Lou Groza's extra point try.

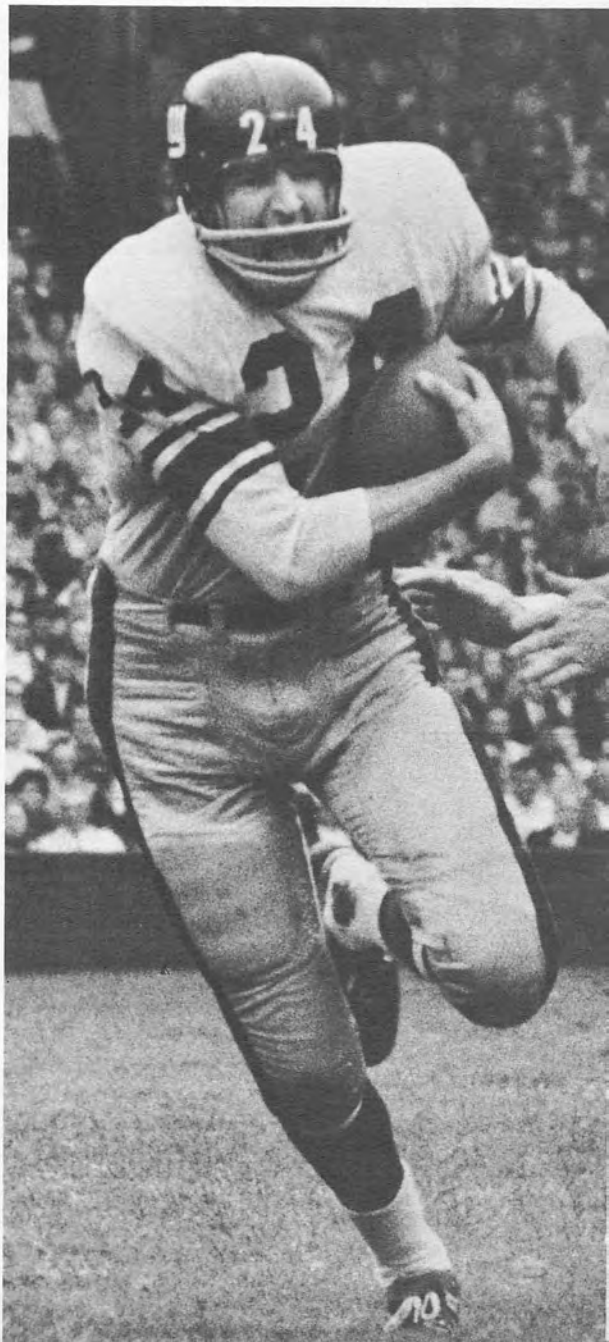


Huff brings Cleveland's Jim Brown down as fullback is held to 40 yards rushing.





*Brown halfback Fichtner dives into photogra-
Alex Webster (left) drives to third touchdown.*





*Shofner as Del Shofner sidesteps way to goal.
Phil King (below) screams for first down.*

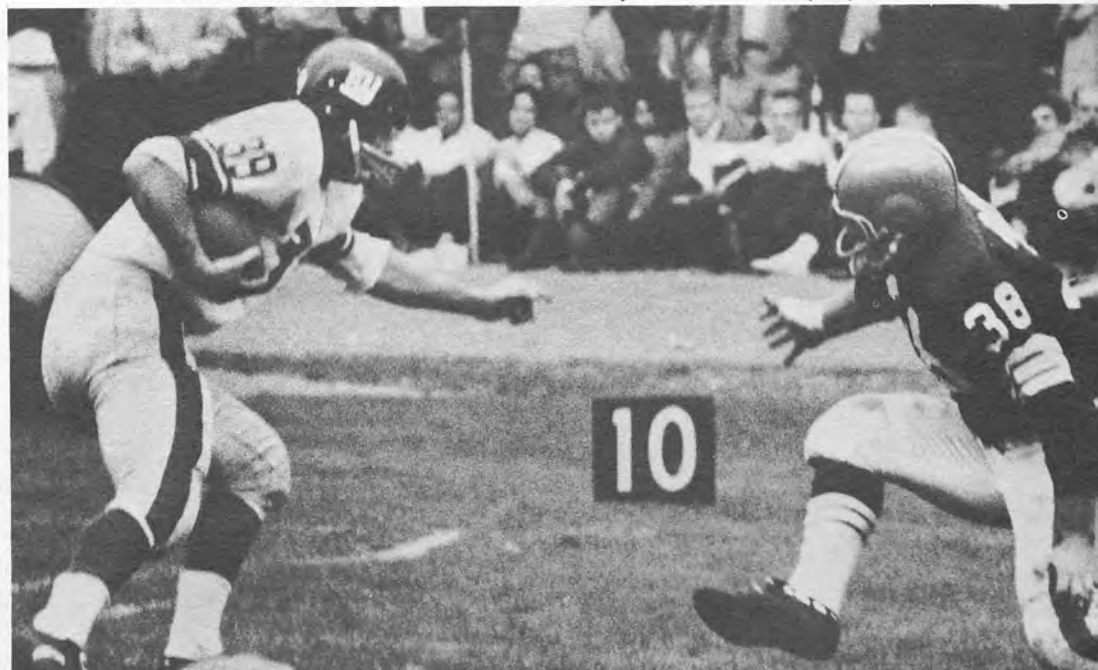
Tittle throws first scoring square-out pass before Wiggin (84) gets to him.

The Perfect Offense

"You can't build a perfect offense," the Coach continued. "On passing, if they play a deep zone and take away your cross patterns you go to the short square-out. If they overload inside to stop your running, you go outside. We were prepared today with sister plays to those their defense would not allow us. The key to a successful offense is the pressure your quarterback puts them to; out-executing them on offense and outwitting them with choice audible calls. This is the greatest game this team has played since I've been coach. The men made it all. They wanted this one."

The great quarterback was stripped down to one red sock. He was still emotionally involved with the thoughts of the game. "We played to the letter of our game plan," Tittle said. "No deviation. Just a sound balanced attack and everything we did worked well. Medium passes to the outside and solid direct blocking up the middle. Just perfect execution on simple football and the greatest defensive game I have ever seen this team play. Oh, my, it was something and they never let up."

Giants' crucial second series ends with McElhenny score on beautiful fake.



The Audible Call

In the Cleveland closet they call a dressing room, Phil King was complimented on the fine catch he made in the third quarter to set up Webster's touchdown. Laughing in an embarrassed whisper of confidence, the Chief reported, "To tell you the honest truth, Y. A. called an audible on that one and I didn't hear him, so I just ran out there and looked around and he threw it to me. It was a perfect pass, but when it hit I was sure surprised."

"I called about 30 audibles in the game and despite what Phil said on that one call when we certainly were lucky, *every man must* hear the audible at the line of scrimmage. It is a completely new play and since all ten men are involved on every play they all must hear it.

"Out there today Cleveland's defense was jumping around so much I had to switch off a lot. Costello would move up *into* the line — three point — from his linebacker position! Well, this changes everything. If he moved into the right side and I had a slant going there I'd check it to a square-out to Shofner on the left. With Costello's shift we would be outmanned on a run into the line, and at the same time audibilizing to the pass would be successful because that left no linebacker to help on pass coverage and put Shofner one-on-one with

Franklin. It worked every time. Now, of course, they'll watch the films and say, 'Hey, every time we shifted to a gap defense, Tittle ran a square-out.' Well, sure I did, but that won't help them now!

"If I came out after calling a circle-in pattern to Thomas, and Costello was sitting deep and the halfbacks were a few steps inside, I would change to a run and hit quick inside with King or Webster because I know that pass call would run into trouble.

"Now, how do I call the audible? Well, if I'm in front of the Giant bench, neither Coach Sherman nor Kyle Rote or the players watching know it is an audible. Many times I turn from side to side but that means nothing. I'll do that and then run the same play I just called. You must be in the huddle and have heard the original play to know it is a check-off. The audible key changes continually through the game. It is never one word or one number. The code is the beginning of each call and I call it every time, but most times it's a dummy signal, otherwise the defense would know when the audible was coming and quickly adjust. It is extremely simple *if* you've heard the call in the huddle, *but* there are only eleven Giants in the huddle."

Ninowski passes as Brown (32) starts free-for-all with linebacker Scott, but the faithful have already gone home.





Against a ghost town backdrop of empty seats, Fred Dugan (87) Redskin end, turns downfield for 38-yard touchdown.

EIGHTH WEEK: COWBOYS 35 - REDSKINS 20

Cotton Bowl, Dallas

With the first half of the 1963 schedule completed, the pre-season analysis had fallen into place. In the West the defending World Champion Green Bay Packers, after losing their opening game to the Bears, had won the next seven and were tied with Chicago for first place. The Bears were upset by San Francisco for their only loss and both teams were 7-1. The Lions and Colts, crippled with injuries, had identical 3-4 records and were not contenders. The Coast teams were having their worst season in years with a combined total of 11 defeats, and only the Vikings, with a 2-5 record, were improved. The Cleveland Browns, the hot team in the East under their new coach and with only one loss to the Giants, reigned on top with a 6-1 record. New York, however, led by Y. A. Tittle, showed an amazing talent for scoring points and were so deep in all positions that many thought them better equipped to withstand the pressures of a long season to win. Two teams remained contenders in the East to make the race to the wire exciting. St. Louis and Pittsburgh both looked capable of winning it all if it came down to the final week.

The Cowboys had won one and lost six after being picked by some to be a top Eastern division team. Washington had won only twice. It was a dreary morning in Dallas, the kind of Sunday when everyone is lazy and just wants to stay in bed. Everyone stayed in bed. There were only 16,000 in the Cotton Bowl that had held 60,000 the previous afternoon for the Texas-S.M.U. game. Tom Landry, the astute Dallas coach, looked a bit worn from losing as he led his team out on the field.

The game was a free-for-all. The ball went up and down the field all afternoon, but it was exciting to watch, as is most every game the Cowboys ever play in Dallas. Two critical interceptions by Mike Gaechter for 86 and 35 yards turned the game around to Dallas, and the Redskins did not help their own cause with a fumble inside the ten after Bobby Mitchell had set up the vital third period score with a 41-yard pass play from Quarterback Norm Snead. For Washington it was the kind of a day of football that breaks your heart. For Dallas it was a rare and welcomed win.



All Alone

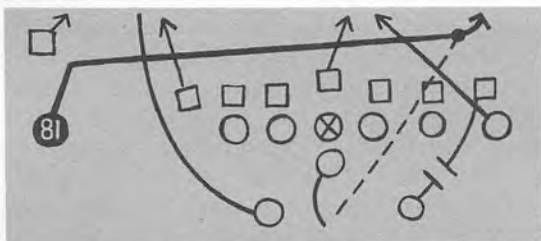
This was the first game in Bill Howton's career that he started and wasn't second string. Second string to Don Hutson, that is. Howton (81, left), the gifted 12-year veteran of the NFL, entered the game with 490 catches for 8261 yards! All alone in the record book ahead of the immortal Packer at last. (Bill Howton has a long way to go to match Don Hutson's 101 touchdowns.)

"When I started my first game as a rookie for Green Bay in 1952 and I stood at that line of scrimmage and looked at that defense, I knew I could beat them. We had a very basic pass offense in those years because the defenses never varied. The game would start and I would run three cuts at my man and know exactly what I could do to beat him the rest of the afternoon. My one single dedication was to *get open* from the first day I started to play.

"Now, twelve seasons later, I wonder if this game isn't passing me by. Everything has changed for a pass receiver. The secondaries have reached a high point of excellence throughout the League. The great receivers of the fifties, Fears, Hirsch, Box, Speedie, Lavelli, Jones, Soltau, Wilson, McColl and the rest, forced the coaches to search for defensive players with speed and agility. The time came when fine offensive backs like John Lattner and Dick Moegel were converted to defensive halfbacks. Today the secondaries are better drilled and better schooled through wide-screen game films to study themselves and *others*. In the early fifties you ran downfield 10 yards and with the old film you were out of the picture. Most important, those deep men are considerably faster now and better understand the basic principles of man-to-man coverage. Today I can't leave that line from my split-end position and just try to get open on every play. That may not be my job. There is little to improvise anymore. If I am not the primary receiver on a play I have a very definite and important function: To clear out an area with my move so our primary receiver may enter it for the catch, and this is just as important to the success of the play as catching the ball.

"We now tailor our attack to the halfbacks we are about to play. Against Washington we knew we could work the short cross pattern. We felt this was a real weakness in the Redskin defense

because on passes they would drop their linebackers off so deep (diagram) we knew we could come underneath them. I did just this on my 25-yard catch on our first touchdown drive.

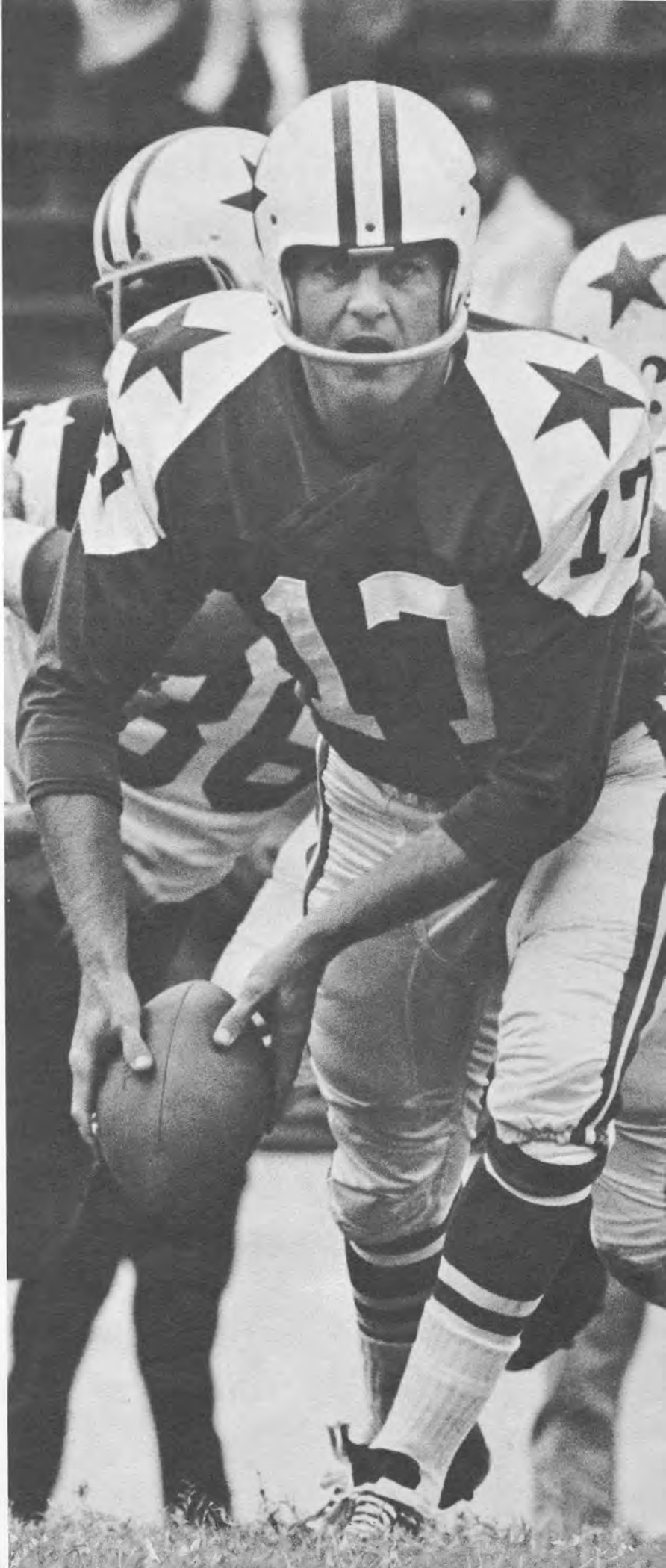


"There are three ways a pro defense will play it: zone, man-to-man, or a shooting defense. Each of these affects our three receivers differently, and if the pass play called in the huddle will not work against the coverage they show us as the play starts then we automatically *switch*. As I leave the line I know with my first step which one of three defenses they will run. If the linebackers back up I know they are not shooting, and I look to the strong-side safety. 1. *Zone*: If he's backing up and going to his outside fast to cover the flanker, then it's a zone. 2. *Man-to-man*: If he hangs, or sits, it's man-to-man. 3. *Shooting*: If one or two linebackers cross the line to rush the quarterback I know they are shooting, leaving the short passing area unprotected.

"Now, if Don Meredith (17, at right) calls a pass that will work well into a zone and I leave the line and their linebackers shoot on a blitz, then with my first step the planned pass is switched and we run a set automatic. If I'm the secondary receiver in the call in the huddle and I see it's a zone, I know I'm going to be number one. If I'm the primary receiver and the defense 'wheels' to the weak side to double on me, the quarterback changes his thinking and will look to the flanker or tight end because he knows they'll only be covered man-to-man.

"Today the information you give to your quarterback is all important. In the old days you could come back to the huddle and suggest a specific play. Now you can only suggest a series, a 'flood' or 'swing,' because the passer has *three receivers* all working together and you can only suggest a pressure or a pattern that may work. The defenses are so flexible and complex and changing you cannot call a *play*.

"Sometimes, and I did it today," Bill Howton concluded with a wistful smile, "I run down and get open and I wave my arm and then I remember that's not the way you play it anymore."



“We’re not lucky anymore...”

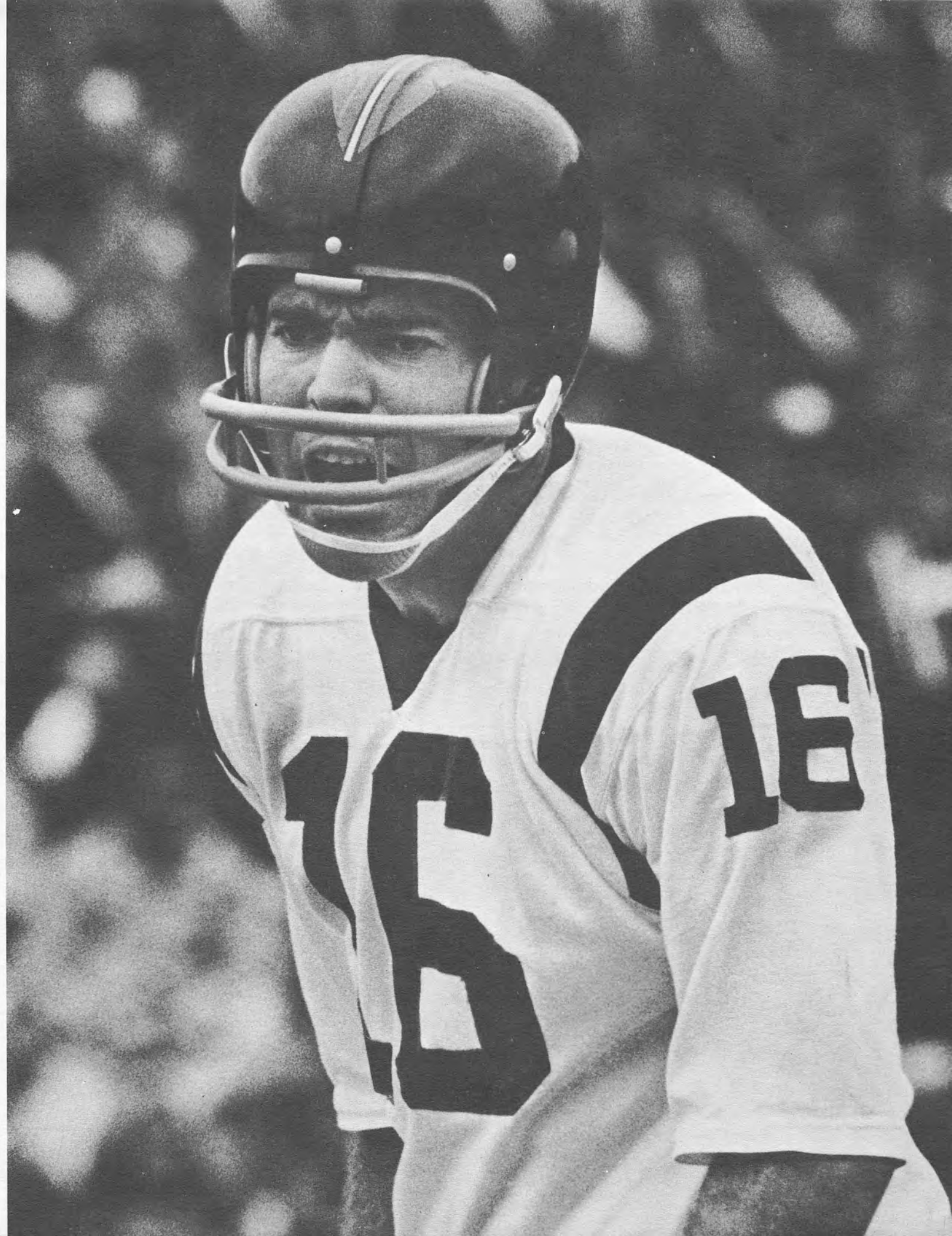
“I thought in the fourth quarter when we were down 21-20 that we were still going to win it,” the dejected Redskin quarterback Norm Snead admitted. “But that 52-yard runback by Bullocks to our 40 was the key. It turned the game around. They came on strong and went in to score on four plays. I’m just not having a good year and as a team we’re not lucky anymore and we’re not getting the breaks we got last year. We are not hitting on the long bomb to Bobby Mitchell (49, below). Our effort is good, but not good enough and the losing momentum is getting us down.”

One minute it appeared that Norm Snead (16, right) and the Redskins had it. The next minute the touch was gone. After the Cowboys advanced 80 yards in 12 plays to score, Snead took Washington 80 yards in 8 plays. The scoring play was a gift. Snead turned to the Dallas bench and threw a 2-yard quick-out to Fred Dugan. The halfback was deep and instead of coming up, he set, and Dugan ran at him, slipped off his shoulder and went 38 yards to score. Lucky! On the kickoff to Dallas, Marsh fumbled on the 39. Two plays later Snead fumbled it back. Dallas could not move it and punted badly for only

26 yards. Norm Snead then called a fine drive mostly on the ground to the 22 and had Mitchell alone in the end zone but missed the fleet receiver. Bob Khayat then was wide on a field-goal attempt. Dallas took over but Pellegrini intercepted immediately. Lucky! Snead brought them down and Khayat succeeded on a field-goal try. Khayat kicked off and Bullocks ran powerfully on a 30-yard return. On the second play, Meredith passed and Paluck intercepted for Washington on the 26 and ran it down to the 3. Lucky! After a run lost four, Snead had Dugan all alone in the left corner and passed from seven yards out. He overthrew a sure touchdown. On the next play Washington ran the same pattern, and not wanting to overthrow again, Snead let up on the pass. Mike Gaechter, the Dallas safety, intercepted and ran it back 86 yards. Don Meredith then passed to Clarke for the Dallas touchdown. Ugh!

In the fourth quarter when Amos Bullocks took the kickoff for the crucial return, he flew past the Redskin bench. As he went by, Coach McPeak looked up and implored, “God Almighty!” It is during games like this that a coach has no one else to turn to.

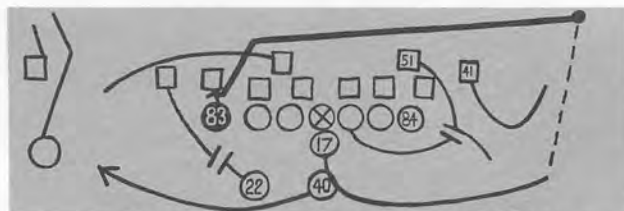




Perfect play against a goal-line defense

Few pro football fans realize how difficult it is to score inside the 10-yard line and how imperative it is that a team does score and not come away empty. Failure here is the most frustrating aspect of the game and a team that can execute and score smartly on first-and-goal picks up more than six points. One of the ideal plays against a goal-line defense is the option that Don Meredith ran so perfectly (picture below) for Dallas' third score.

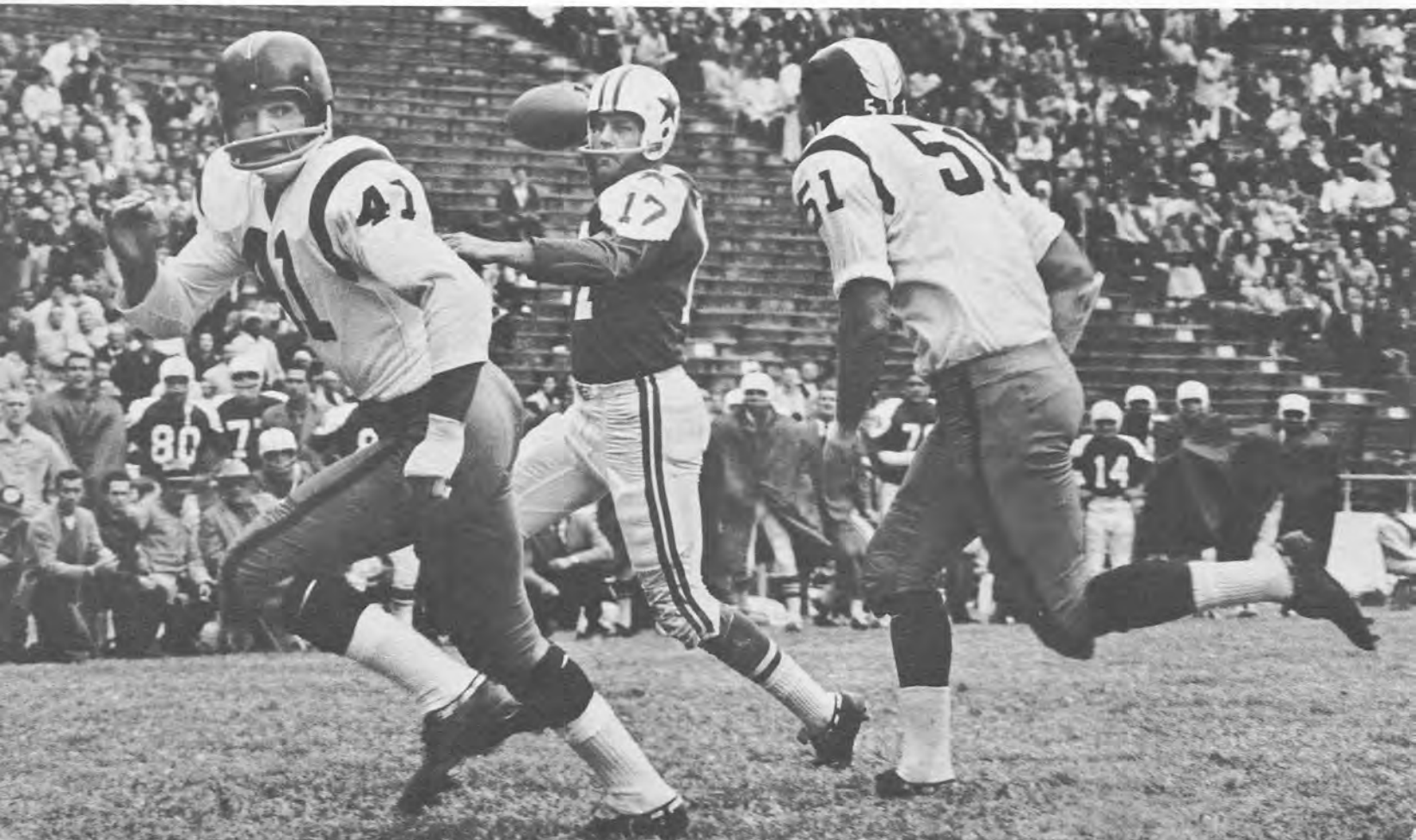
"They were in a goal-line set-up. They sent in four linebackers," the full-time Cowboy quarterback remarked. "I called the quarterback option, run or pass (diagram right). We line up strong left and send our backs, Bullocks (22) and Stiger (40), on a flood to the strong side. Bill Howton was replaced on the weak side by Pettis Norman (84) who's bigger as a blocker, and he must get their end. We pull the offside guard, who picks up the linebacker. I roll out to my right (the weak side) flat behind the guard and the key is their halfback, Steffen (41). He will drop off or come. When he came up to get me I threw the pass. Lee Folkins (83) cut across from his tight end position on the strong side and was all alone and waiting in the back corner of the



end zone. That put us back in the lead 21-20. It was the touchdown we had to make and against that goal-line mob it is one hell of a touchdown play inside the 10."

Coach Tom Landry suddenly looked more prosperous in the dressing room after the game. "Well, I hope this is a turning point and that we can win more regularly. Our defense, however, has a long way to go. We are making too many mistakes in the secondary and we just are not good enough to stop a strong ground game.

"The main thing is we are not alert enough, not quick enough over-all to force the breaks. We get them with individual efforts here and there like Mike Gaechter's two interceptions today, but only experience, the long experience of playing together in this League, will give us that cohesive quickness that controls ballgames."





In an unlikely position for a king, Philadelphia Eagle quarterback Hill eats grass as 1200 lbs. of Giant defense walk away.

NINTH WEEK: **GIANTS 42 - EAGLES 14**

Yankee Stadium, New York

The Eagle is the king of birds, a majestic and mighty symbol. In Philadelphia every Eagle is a bum! "Go soak your fat head, you bum," the 60,000 die-hard fans who have packed Franklin Field during the last two losing seasons yell down to their football team. "You can't block, you can't tackle, you can't kick, you bum, you."

The Eagles came to Yankee Stadium to get some peace and quiet and were shellacked 42-14. They looked awful. Crippled with injuries, they had won only one game. The loss of their top quarterback, Sonny Jurgensen, for most of the season hurt the team and in desperation they had signed Ralph Guglielmi, who a few months before was the strong back-up man to the Giants' ace, Tittle. After a harrowing afternoon in Pittsburgh replacing Tittle, on the second Sunday of the season when the Steelers beat the Giants 31-0, Gug was traded to San Francisco, but quit instead. Then with the Eagles hurting he had signed with them. It is a strange feeling for devoted fans to see one of their players come back with another team in the same season. Near the end of the first half King Hill was hit hard by Sam Huff and the Giant line (above) and Guglielmi entered the game. The 63,000 Giant fans cheered him when he came on the field. It has been open season for quarterback hunting all over the League and now the Eagles were down

to number 3. At the end of the third quarter Guglielmi was hit viciously by Andy Robustelli, fumbled, and left the game and a groggy Hill returned. Asked about hitting his old teammate, the Giant captain replied, "When I blitzed and caught Ralph, I hit him with everything I had. I try to hit every quarterback that way. Most times I walk away and don't think about it. This time I did. But I felt I would be wrong after firing up my own team to then help him up. I saw him lying there, but I thought if I picked him up it would be grandstanding so I just walked away and I felt like a heel."

The aggressive New York defense muffled the Eagles all afternoon even though the first quarter ended 7-7. Erich Barnes was injured on a play and Tommy McDonald, confident Philadelphia flanker, trotted by his bench and yelled to the coaches, "Look who they got covering me. Some guy 25. I don't know who he is." On the next play King Hill threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to McDonald who beat Dick Pesonen (25), Barnes' replacement, with no trouble. It gave the famous pass catcher 65 touchdown passes and moved him up to second place in the record book behind Don Hutson. Number 25 stayed close the rest of the day, however, and McDonald did nothing more. "Their lines killed us," said Nick Skorich, the Eagle coach. "That was it!"

Toughest Call

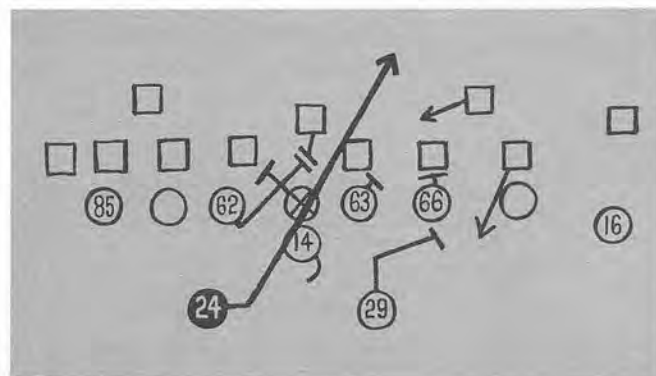
The Eagles were up for this game and had a chance with the score even as the second quarter began. Beginning a drive on their 20, the Giants made two first downs, were penalized, and with third and 18, Y.A. completed a pass to Frank Gifford for 17 yards. It was fourth and one on the Eagle 47. The Giants decided to run. If the Eagle defense holds they take over for a touchdown or at least a field goal. The game turned right here. The Giants made three yards and then after two passes Alex Webster scored. After this score the Giant defense pressured King Hill, his next pass was intercepted by linebacker Hillebrand, and in five plays the Giants scored again and the flood gates were open. On the key play (picture below), the Giants ran a short yardage dive 41 trap into an Eagle 6-1 defense with the backs in so close it looked like a ten-man line. The Giants keep Gifford (16) and Shofner (85) in tight (diagram right). Darrell Dess fold-blocks or traps the middle linebacker and Center Greg Larson blocks back on the tackle. Y.A. on a reverse pivot shows the ball to Webster, who starts for the line to influence the Eagle left tackle so Bookie Bolin can zone block him. Phil King then drives at an angle over center and looks "for a little crease" to get through for the vital yard.

"Third and long, fourth and one, they're the toughest calls of all," Y.A. agreed. "Their defense is ready. One they figure you to pass, the other to run. If you've got fourth and one you can break one man fast and throw a 20-yard pass as a surprise, but usually you run. With third and long, they'll be set for a pass and rushing hard, and a draw play may catch them, but usually you pass. You succeed with a defense that is set against you by perfect execution on the right play."

Captain Jack Stroud at right tackle describes the line-men's job on short yardage. "We're not playing for one yard. We figure with their entire defense in so tight if we break it right, our back may go a long way, so we block all out. The defensive man on fourth and one will either play it as we teach it to our defense — raise the offensive man up to get under his chest so you decrease his power and take away his leverage — or he will submarine. If he gets his head low and dives in to pile up the play then you sit on him and mash on him and stomp on him and he's dead, for our ball carrier will just leap over the both of us. This is preferable to us, actually, because if we're both standing the defensive man can jam the hole and force the runner to change direction or knock him off balance. If that defensive tackle is a real slasher and comes quick you must cut his feet from under him moving him sideways so he has no forward force."



The Giants receivers execute perfectly on third down pass:

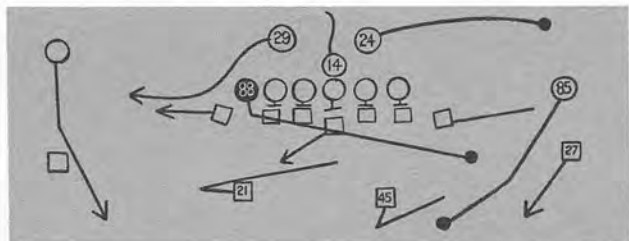


Early game turning point achieved on vital 4-1 situation:

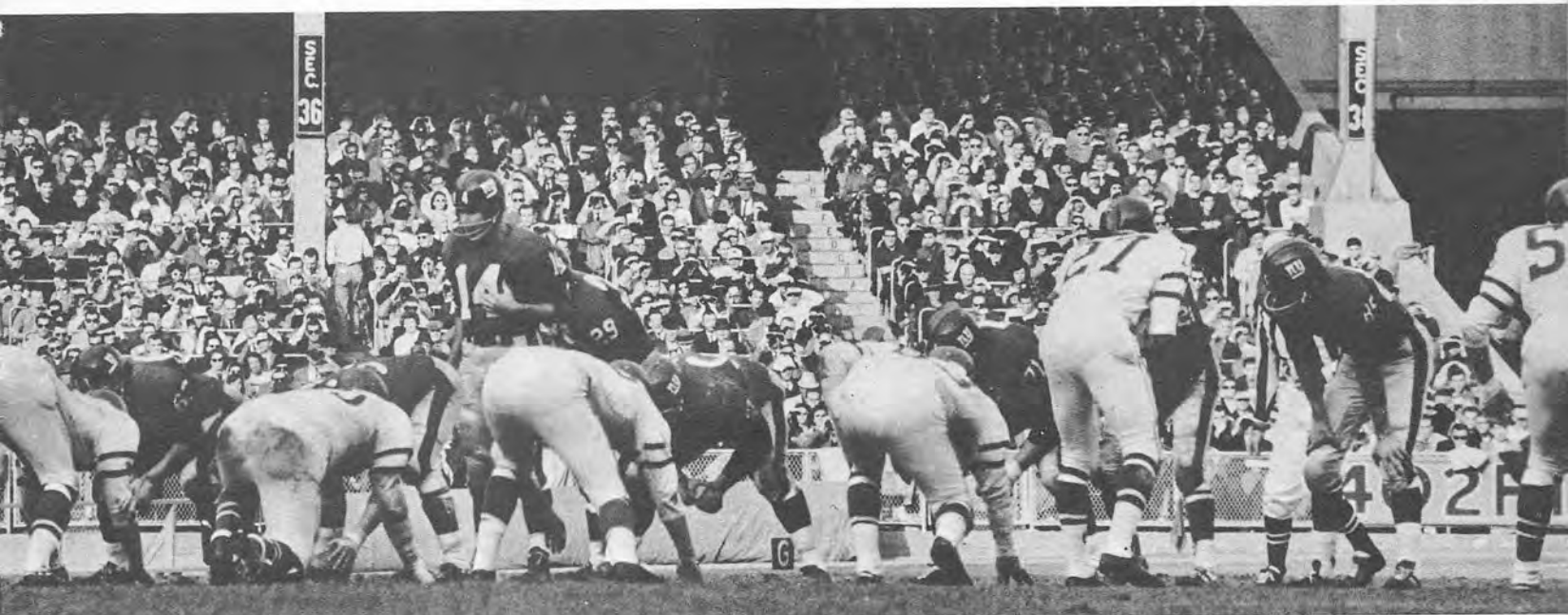


King (24) flares, occupying linebacker, Shofner (85) takes Eagles' Cross (27) deep as Thomas (88) crosses for catch.

With third and seven on the Eagle 42 Tittle passed to Aaron Thomas (picture above), who cut across field to his left and then turned and ran it to the 2-yard line. Webster scored and the Giants led 14-7. This pass pattern tactically is a perfect one because it presents one side of the Eagle defense with an almost impossible choice, but it works mainly because all three of the Giant receivers, Shofner, Thomas, and King, are such threats on a pass. The diagram (right) details the play. Shofner (85) goes deep, clearing the halfback and safety. The linebacker has to stay up to watch King (24) who is flaring. The middle linebacker keys to the fullback, Webster, who runs out to his right and Thomas (88) runs



a deep crossover through that sector for the catch. If the right-side linebacker or halfback comes up to fill and cover Thomas then the secondary receiver, King, will be open and Shofner will be one-on-one.



Eagles are tight in 6-1 defense as Tittle (14) calls trap between center Larson and Bolin (63) aided by Stroud (66).

Attaway to go, big Chief!

Everyone who has ever played sandlot football or high school or college ball, knows the Walter Mitty dream of busting over center with a short pass and running straight down the middle of the field leaving "a host of enemy tacklers in your wake." Phil King (24) hasn't played Walter Mitty in 1963. This year the Chief is the genuine article. In the picture below he scores the Giants' vital first touchdown on a 38-yard pass play.

"I'm very proud of my pass-catching record this year," the fullback confided. "I haven't dropped one." He rapped the wooden locker stool with his square knuckles.

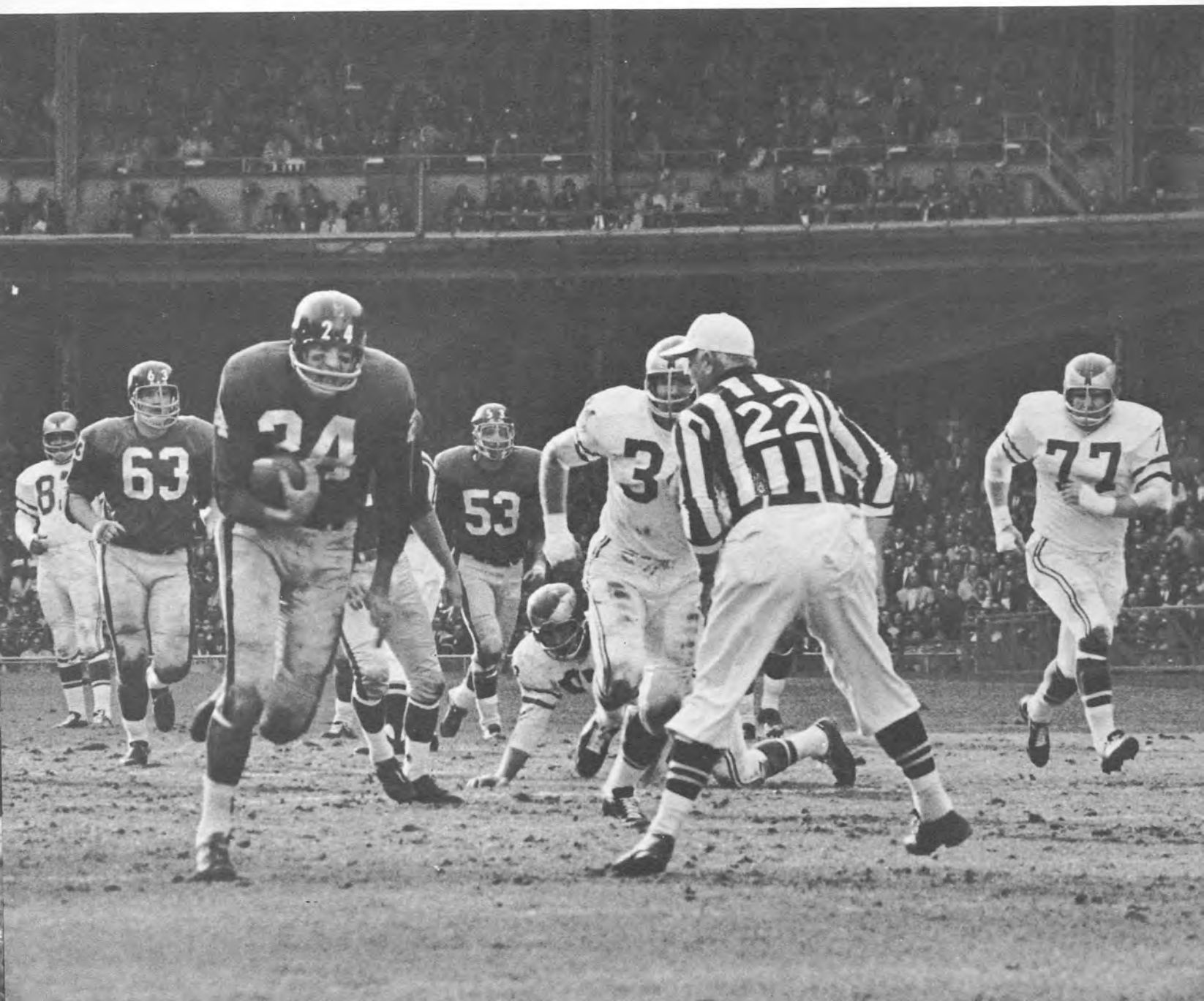
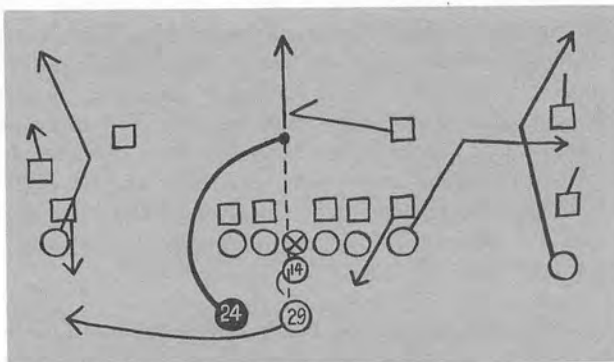
"Let's face it. I played my rookie year, but last year was the first year I played regularly every week. Those years I was out, first my knee, then my shoulder, I actually lost the feel of the game. Last year the coach gave me a new start in the Lions game and then the next ten games playing full time I got the feel of football back into me and with it my confidence was restored and the coach's confidence. But most of all the players' confidence, and especially Y.A.'s on my pass catching. This year I'm running more because Alex has been hurt. Webster is the big man and I should be blocking for him, but with Alex out I got my chance.



"This play was a beauty. The huddle call was a square out to Del Shofner. When we came to the line, Y.A. saw the Eagles in a flanker defense. This puts a corner linebacker on each wide receiver and the middle linebacker in the line on the tight end (diagram right). Shofner was outmanned, but the middle was open so Y.A. checked-off to a special automatic and I released out of the backfield and took the pass over center. The Coach picked this off the films. He had seen the Eagles use it in the Bear game and the automatic preparation proved invaluable. Once I caught it I saw the safety coming out of the corner of my eye and I was able to knock him over and bust loose."

Coach Al Sherman came by and sincerely praised the Chief. "You've been big for us this year, boy. You've carried us this far. What more can I say."

Late in the game one of the greatest roars ever heard in Yankee Stadium came when the scoreboard showed the Steelers had beaten the Browns 9-7 in the closing minutes in Pittsburgh. "We're back in the race!" Y. A. said.



That Eagle is a dead pigeon

It is a fact in football that if a good defense has a weak player — one pigeon — who can be exploited by a sharp offense, then that defense will be hurting. This is also true of a division with one weak team. That Eagle is a pigeon in the East. They have lost 19 games in their last 26, when in 1961 they had the quickest scoring potential of any team in the NFL. No team can compete in the League without a top quarterback and the Eagles have been lying dead in the bottom of the cage since their big quarterback, Sonny Jurgensen, was injured in the 1961 Play-off Bowl.

Pete Retzlaff, the debonair and articulate captain of the team, discussed the Eagles plight after their humiliating loss to the Giants. "I have always maintained, and will say it again, that Sonny Jurgensen has the best throwing arm in the League — *bar none!* For the full all-around quarterbacking abilities you would have to go with Y.A. Tittle or John Unitas, but for just the talent of throwing the football in the right spot at the right time with the right amount of lead, Jurgensen is the best. So his injuries for most of the season have hurt us and have affected our receivers and we've been losing. In constantly losing I find I go around talking to myself. It's like being snake-bitten. You can't shake it. All you can think of is losing and there is none of the happy-go-lucky cohesiveness on the team that winning brings. With losing, tempers flare and that's always bad for

morale. In football 90% of success is mental. That is why on a losing team, losing more is almost inevitable.

"But basically, this Eagle team has the talent over-all where if we were shored up in three key areas we could bounce back to be a top contending team in the East as fast as we fell off. In this respect there is great hope for the immediate future.

"I think we will have the chance to get back to the top level of contention in the East much faster under Jerry Wolman, who will very shortly become the new owner of the Philadelphia Eagles. In the past we've had a situation where all decisions concerning the team were subordinated to the business interests of a large group of 60 or 80 businessmen-owners who would not make a move concerning the Eagles until they knew what it would mean as a tax deduction or what it would do to their personal profit-and-loss sheets. Now, with the prospect of a new young owner who is a true sportsman, things should change. It will be a hobby with him, as he says, and I know it will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us on the Eagle team to be able to play in such an atmosphere. I think rebuilding will come about much faster under the new ownership. Philadelphia is a fine football town and the loyal fans who have kept coming to our games deserve a high-flying Eagle. And you watch, they'll get it."

A grim-faced Eagle captain, Pete Retzlaff, cautions ex-Giant quarterback Ralph Guglielmi (17) before he enters game.





Red-dogging Bear linebacker, Larry Morris (33) imbeds his helmet into the gut of Packer passer John Roach (10).

TENTH WEEK: **BEARS 26 - PACKERS 7**

Wrigley Field, Chicago

The banner headline in the Chicago Tribune this Sunday read: NATION AWAITS BEARS - PACKERS TODAY. The network TV coverage was increased all over the country so the fans everywhere could watch Green Bay, who after eight consecutive victories, would try to avenge their only loss — to the Bears — in the season opener. Chicago was out to show they could do it again and end Green Bay's power reign in the West. This was the 90th meeting of these mid-western rivals, the pro football game of the year.

"This is the biggest thing that's happened to Chicago since Mrs. O'Leary's cow knocked over the lantern!" Coach Vince Lombardi slapped his friend on the back and gave it the big rasping paisano laugh. His attitude as the Packers were completing their pre-game drill was representative of the whole team's. They were haughty, and confident with laughter for an hour before the game in the dressing room and on each pre-game practice maneuver they made. Herb Adderley ran down for a pass, made the catch, then leaped and tossed the ball over his shoulder in glee. The Bears were grim, almost chalk-faced. Wade alone seemed composed and in a

sober pre-game mood. He was off his target at first, but then let up a little and hit for six in a row. He had the touch and he smiled. There was no laughter in the Bears' dressing room. There was none all week either. When the game began the big black Bears hit the laughing boys in the stomach and they rolled over dead.

The victory must be recorded as one of the greatest in Bear history. The irrefutable fact in football is that it takes a great offensive and defensive effort in the line to defeat a great team. The Packers are a great team and the Bears took them apart. Like they took the Redskins apart 73-0 in 1940. Or the Packers crushed Cleveland 42-14 and the Giants 37-0 in 1961. The score is a poor indication. Green Bay was never in this game. Only if you saw the faces of the Green Bay team on the bench in the second quarter would you understand their desperate frustration. John Roach hunched over under his huge green cape. Thurston with blood on his shirt, Ringo wringing his hands, Nitschke and Jordan and Currie quiet and startled at the fact that they were out-classed. There was no laughter once they had met those dedicated Chicago Bear linemen. Why?



1 J. C. Caroline's opening tackle. **2** Mike Ditka takes Wade pass for 16 yds. to set up first field goal beating Packer left side.

Seven reasons why

No defensive team has ever handled the Green Bay offense in this startling manner. Not the Eagle defense in 1960 or the Lion defense in 1962. A Lombardi-coached Green Bay team has not been beaten twice in one season since the Champion Colts did it in 1959. Lombardi's Packers have only lost 4 of their last 32 League games. Today Green Bay could gain only 71 yards on the ground. Only twice in two games could the mighty Packers get inside the Bear 30-yard line. Green Bay lost the ball *seven times*, five interceptions and two fumbles — the Bears none. But the most significant statistic of all was that Chicago had the ball *22 times* more than the Packers (74-52). Coach Lombardi was not happy when it ended. "They beat our offensive line and our defensive line. There is nothing more to say."

The game ball went to Phil Handler, the coach of the Bears' offensive line. The picture at right vividly shows the job they accomplished. It is reason No. **6**, Willie Galimore (28) heading off tackle on his 27-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. The Bears' line: Lee (70), Karras (67), Pyle (50), Davis (60), and Wetoska (63) have knocked Jordan, Henry, Hanner, and Willie Davis down, buried Henry in fact, as middle linebacker Nitschke is falling, and Galimore *hasn't even reached the line of scrimmage!* There is no better proof of the explosive job the linemen did on this memorable afternoon.



7 The defensive alignment. The Bears never showed the same formation as John Roach brought his team to the line in the first quarter. In the picture below left he starts his call and center Jim Ringo calls out his line-blocking signal. But what's he to call? The corner line-





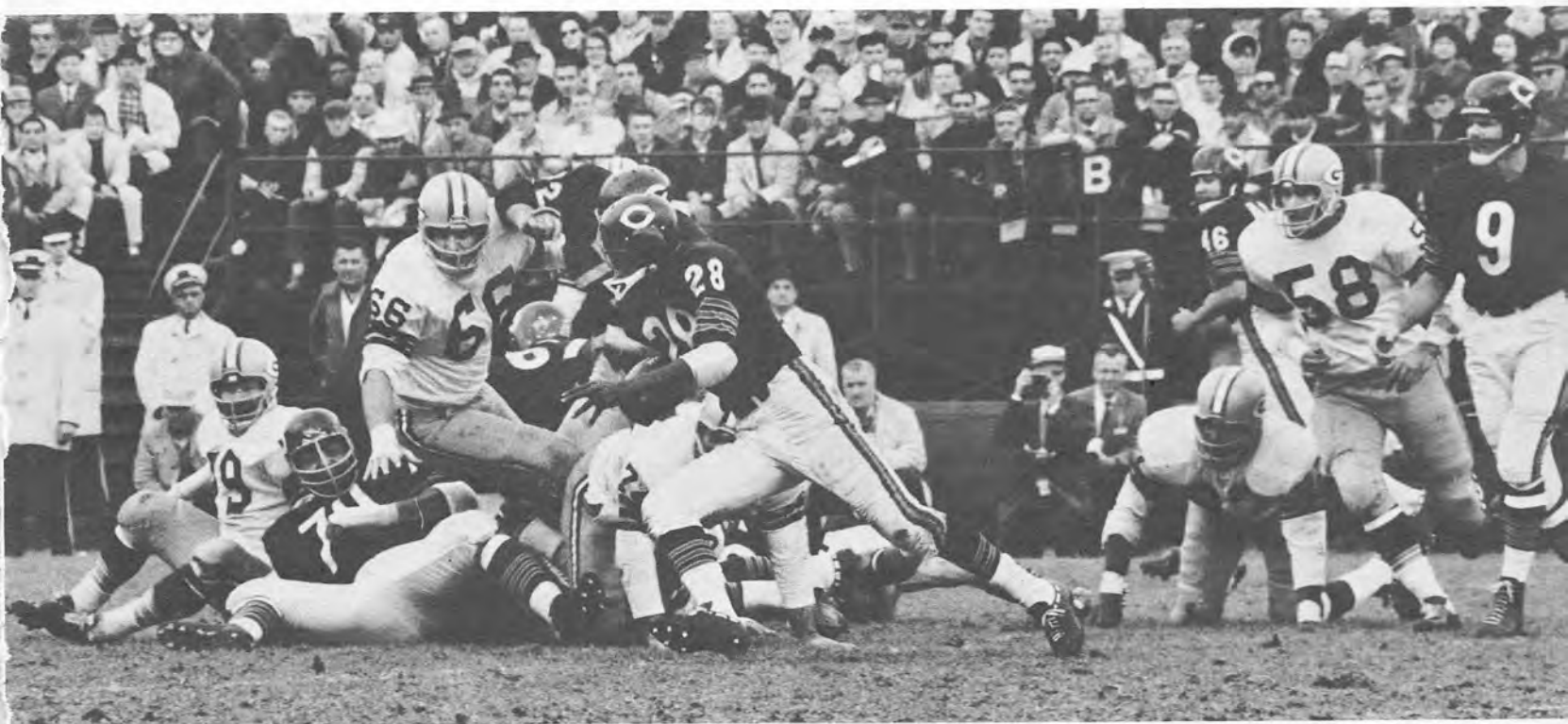
3 Leclerc kicked 4 key field goals.



4 Adderley fumbles return, Leclerc recovers.



5 Five interceptions: McRae for 46 yds.



backer Larry Morris is behind Bill George (61) in the center on Roach's nose. The tackles started inside, but they have just slid to the outside shoulder of guards Kramer and Thurston. At the last instant Morris moved into the line at the right. The play went off (center pic-

ture) for no gain as Ringo (51) is left with no one to block and Tom Moore (25) is hit by three Bears. In the second half (picture right) the shifting was less apparent as George and Morris set three point in the line, intent on putting a great rush on Roach and Zeke Bratkowski.

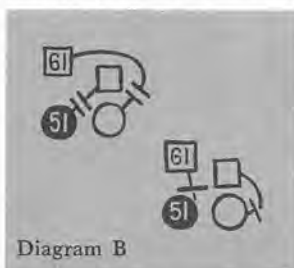
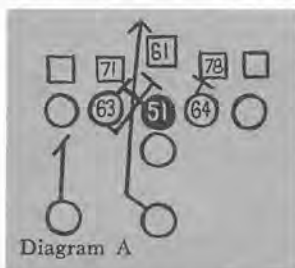


In the center of the storm

Jim Ringo was resting in bed late Saturday afternoon storing up strength for the meeting on the field of friendly strife. Ringo is the best offensive center in football and his job would be Bill George, the middle linebacker of the Bears.

"I can't tell anyone why what I do is better than any other center. I don't know. What I do know is that in that Packer offensive line the five of us act as one man. I call a blocking pattern according to the way the defense lines up, but we do not block individually. We act as one man. Our blocking angles all flow together. If I come over the ball and George is 2 yards deep upright, I know it will be a 6-1 or 4-3 or some *even defense* and I call an even blocking pattern. If I come to the line and the tackle is on my head I know it's some type of *odd defense* not a 4-3 and I call the blocking for an odd man line. If my quarterback calls an audible I still call the blocking for the new play as I see the defense before me. Defenses are set up from inside out and we block it that way.

"The key to our power running up the middle is the blocking combinations I work with our guards, Fuzzy Thurston (63), on my left, and Jerry Kramer (64), on my right. One combination is *fold blocking* (diagram A), the other is the flexible do-dad (B). These will be governed tomorrow by the angle of charge of the tackles, Leggett (71), Jones (78), and George (61) in the middle.



"Our whole objective is to put pressure on their tackles. When we mix our blocking on runs it starts to slow their charge because they begin wondering which way are we coming and who will be his man. When we get those tackles concerned and thinking they start to play our type of game. When we slow their charge we take the pressure off our quarterback and then we're in business."

In the game the Bear defense upset the blocking of the Packer line. Nothing worked. Their keys broke down as the Bears shifted. The running lanes clogged and the Bears rush was too much for Green Bay to handle. George won the battle over Ringo.

The unmasked veteran is a pleasant, soft-spoken guy and after the game he discussed the victory. "Now the secret of today's game," Bill George said, "was that we came up to the line in a different formation every time. We were out to confuse them. Our tackles have specific areas to cover inside or outside and after protecting those areas they pursue the ball. They won't play anyone else's game. We were thoroughly prepared on defense. Coach George Allen did an excellent job. We owe our success to him. No one on the Bears gave much regard to who quarterbacked the Packers. They are a well-oiled machine no matter who is the quarterback. They are the greatest football team I've ever played against in my 12 years in the NFL.

"Our defensive huddle is the root of our success. We have a long huddle and are all a part of the thinking. Joe Fortunato calls the defenses. They are not flashed to us with a hand signal from the bench by the defensive coach as the Packers and other teams do it. We alert each other in the huddle. 'We're on the left hash mark. The wide side's to our right. Let's double up over there.' Petitbon will say 'one man was open on that last one. Watch it. They probably will go to him now.' Whitsell will ask for help to double up on a flanker and McRae will say 'go ahead. I can handle my man alone.' We all assume responsibility on every play, but have full faith in Joe Fortunato's command of the huddle.

"When we come out of that huddle we know exactly what we're going to do. We don't stand and wait to see what they start to run and then decide. We know before. Now it's the law of the game that you can't defend every possibility, but for us it's the proper peg in the proper hole, and from long study of their frequencies and down-and-yardage and time-and-score we have been right most of the time. *We are on top of the offense.* It is a positive thinking and we have the personnel to make it work. The key to our success is simplicity. We have cut down on switching to where we make *fewer errors*. We have eliminated all hesitation on our part. We know what we're going to do. We don't care what they do.

"Our defense *tactically* is based on planning and our unit working together. Psychologically it is based on pride. We were hurt out there that they scored on us. Our whole concern is to win, but today we figured if we shut out the Packers that would leave little doubt in anyone's mind about our defense because their offense is the best in football. Defense has come a long way since I was a rookie in 1951. I've never had so much fun."



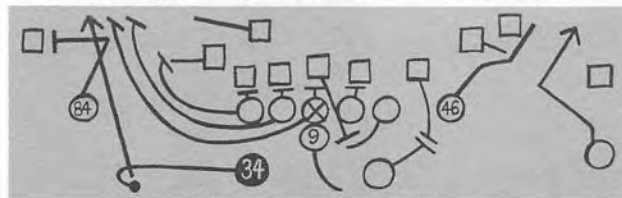


A disgruntled Vince Lombardi watches the Bears block and execute his way on 28-yard screen pass to Marconi (34).

The Quarterback calls his greatest game

Bill Wade addressed the press with great dignity. "This game was a matter of honor. They wanted to win and we wanted to win. They've been on top and it was a matter of proving who was better today. It was a great team victory. That's what is important to me. Two of the biggest plays of the game in my mind were at the start of the second half. We were only leading 13 - 0 and had just been set back with a 15-yard holding penalty. The first play was a 12-yard sideline pass to Coia on the right and then I looked right and threw the screen left to Marconi (diagram). This established our second-half momentum, kept us going, and Leclerc kicked the third field goal off of that drive."

Sid Luckman smiled and praised the quarterback's game. "This was the greatest day of signal calling in his career. He chose beautifully, he anticipated, he moved the ball continually against a great team, and they *are* great. Bill picked them apart and the execution was perfect. We controlled the ball — that line was tremendous."



Bear quarterback Bill Wade (9), showing pass to deceive lunging Packer Herb Adderley (26), circles end for final score.



12:31 P.M. November 22, 1963

The Last Gesture

As I knelt in Arlington among the brown fallen leaves, I listened to the sound of taps echoing from around the gentle hill. I listened to this sound and it was the most beautiful sound I had ever heard. Each summer night as a boy at camp I had listened to taps, but I never knew what it meant. I knew now. As the last notes faded in the sunlit afternoon, I inexplicably, involuntarily began to breathe a long, clean, deep breath, and it continued to fill my lungs effortlessly, and I could not stop it. The honor guard passed the flag from his coffin to his majestic widow and John Kennedy gave each of us a single breath of freedom.

Football was Jack Kennedy's game, sailing his sport, government his life, freedom his dream. He was the first president with whom we could identify ourselves. He was one of us. The thought of a puffy-faced old politician, away in Washington and separate from our daily lives, was gone now. He made government a vital, exciting, important, possible endeavor. He told us that we must be a part of it and he put that tiny flicker of hope in each of us that we could be a part, that we could give something. He made us aware of the simple truth that we could be citizens and have it mean something in our daily lives and in our families. He awakened all of us to the cherished abundance of our nation's history, to the accomplishments of our forefathers. American history became alive when he shook his finger because *he was alive*. That presidential seal he stood behind took on a

new meaning. He offered us a magnificent possibility — the fact that there was a chance for us, a need for us, a caring for us to serve our country. He made us believe in ourselves and hope and conceivably think that, even if imperceptibly, we *could* do something for our country. We identified ourselves, every athlete, journalist, student, in an office, or a factory, or on a farm, with his dream of freedom. Dignity and culture and learning and the grand style became a reality. Everyone was bigger because John Kennedy was bigger. He was a born leader dedicated to learning and reason. Intelligence was his sword. Humor and love and compassion his strength.

His magnetism was genuine. Everyone turned to see him and seeing him they smiled, and smiling they could not turn away. He had the look of eagles in his eye. He was, with Robert Frost, in this brief walk through life able to say, "I am out for stars."

We can hear his voice. We knew his words had meaning in history. We knew they were from somewhere up ahead. We heard them, but they did not touch all of us yet because we were not yet there. Now we are there and the words and their meaning and the love that inspired them are sealed in our hearts and covered by the hard-crusted scar that will remain with each of us in this generation, in *his* generation, until the day we die.

When Abraham Lincoln was shot, there were 34 million

citizens in our land and only a few thousand heard the news that day. On this day more than 150 million people heard the news within one hour and saw this tragedy on television. Old glass negatives were the popular form of photography in the 1860's and the number of Lincoln photographs can be counted quickly. The cracked and yellowed age-encrusted images are almost identical in their formal sameness of his now historic face. Our imagination alone completes the memory of the man. John Kennedy, by the most amazing picture magic yet devised, is totally alive. Immediate, intimate. His pulse will beat forever on the miles of taffy-colored videotape that transmits a life from its shiny blank surface. The young, handsome, intelligent American. The perfect image of our generation. How well we knew him. He was the picture president. We saw him at the conventions, we saw him deliver his inaugural address as his every breath made smoke on the brilliant sunny winter air. We saw his wife affectionately and proudly touch his cheek as he came past the columns when the ceremony was over. We saw him look inside the capsule as John Glenn explained the heat shield, we saw him sit full figure on stage at Amherst with his academic robe and listen to Archibald MacLeish, we saw him deliver his grave ultimatum on the blockade of Cuba, we saw him button the middle button of his jacket with his left hand, or tuck his thumb under his middle finger, and with a slightly bent forefinger intensify a point at a press conference, we saw him smile and cross his outstretched hands as he greeted the tumultuous crowds in Berlin, we saw him walk with his children and laugh with them. We knew him as well as we knew the members of our own family, his every mannerism and gesture.

We must all pay the price. The time in history that produced John Kennedy also produced the sniper that killed him. Destiny is that point where the cross hairs of coincidence meet, and it is at this point in time that the undeserved success and flawless accuracy of a murderer found a crack in the security wall surrounding the president. Colonel Earl Blaik said the game of football is most like the game of life. I doubt it now. In football you have a chance. At this horrible instant John Kennedy never had a chance. This is the crime.

Why should you have this success, sniper? Why should everything go perfectly for you in this foulest act? Why did you succeed so easily? Where is the justice there? How many are with you in that window, sniper? How will we know you or see you in broad daylight with the white sunshine in our eyes?

We know, sniper, that you are the personification of evil today. All who are rotten and vulgar and loveless and godless, all are with you in that window. All who have no direction in their lives, who have never given their brain a chance to accept our history or our heritage,

belittle it, or have never heard of it, or despise it, are with you in that window. The bigoted, the vicious, the venom-filled misfits are with you, sniper, in that window. The gutless and all who are too weak to work and who whimper that they are persecuted. The resisters are with you. We are afraid to look and see how many there are, or to listen to their hideous remarks. Our justice dictates that we cannot kill you, sniper, but our conscience says we cannot turn away. We cry because we are ashamed. We are confused because we have lost the one man we knew we would not lose. We are sick with an agonizing aching in the pit of our stomach because we have lost just when we thought we had it made. They will tell us freedom put you in that window, sniper. No. You could have gotten there in a police state or a free society. Your will alone put you there. It comes down to good or evil and whether a man devotes the energies of his life to one or the other.

Now we know the only thing we have to hate is hate itself, to paraphrase Franklin Roosevelt. There is nothing to fear, because we have lost so much, fear is useless now. Sniper, you simplified our lives. You got us to see God, our country, and our family, and to know how priceless each one is, and know there is really nothing else. You blew open our ragged, musty, mind's eye and we know now of the evil and good in us and we have seen our imperfection, and we know, each of us, when we lift our three-year-old son up into our arms and kiss his warm laughing face, that we can never turn away again.

As an artist feels every movement of a figure in his own body and then transmits this intense feeling through his pen or brush to a vivid and decisive line in his drawing, so John Kennedy felt a devotion to freedom and a passion for life and the future peace of this country he loved. The imperishable mark he made was the stroke of a young and noble statesman beginning a new design on the white paper of the future. No one will erase it, no one can imitate it, no one can complete his drawing of history. All we can do is compliment it. All we can do is accept its beauty and strength and be sustained by it. This was his art.

The car turned the corner in a motorcade in Dallas. The sun of high noon shone brilliant on his face. His eyes found a father and his son, who smiled and waved, and he waved and smiled and was no more. That bullet suspended him in time, at the moment of a wave of greeting, at the moment of a smile of friendship, in the middle of his life and his dream for this nation. That gesture will last forever. His words will never leave us, that smile will never vanish from this land, that look of eagles will haunt us and goad us and sustain us and lead us. That look will be our conscience and our guide. President John Kennedy's last gesture is for all of us to follow to the stars. Now we know there is no place else to go.



ROBERT RIGER

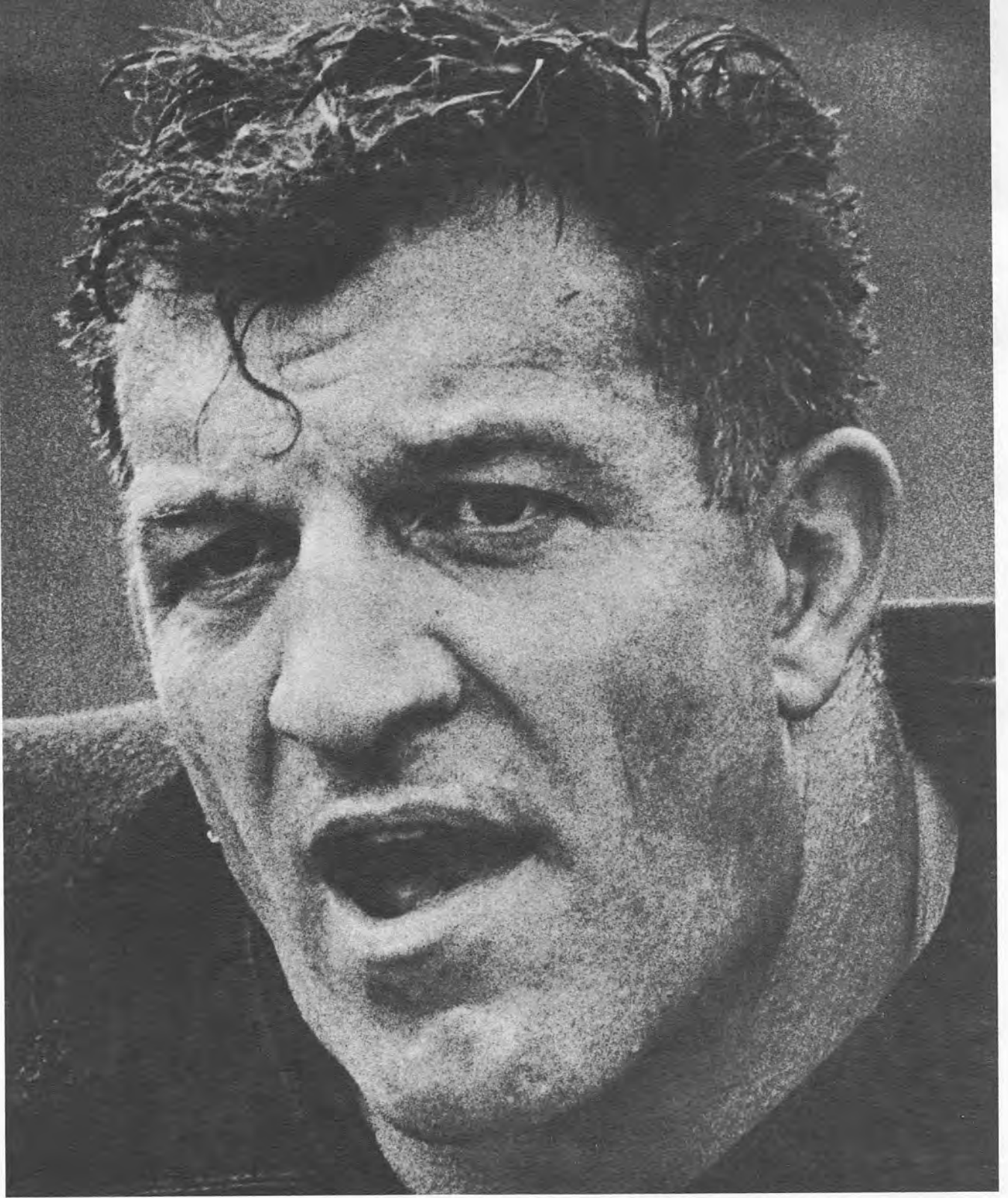




With heavy hearts

The news of the president's death was received by the players, and everyone connected with pro football, as it was by the nation, with shock and utter disbelief. NFL Commissioner Rozelle ordered all games to be played.

The eleventh week brought the first-place Bears to Pittsburgh for a severe test, with this tight defensive game turning on one play. Trailing the Steelers 17-14 in the fourth quarter, the Bears lost 26 yards on a penalty and a blitz. With second and 36 Bill Wade fired a short quick pass to Mike Ditka on the left side. John Reger, playing outside, dove and missed, then Pottios, Glass, and Thomas hit him all at once, and with a twisting herculean effort of explosive strength, Ditka threw off all three men (picture left). The big Bear drove forward and broke clear as the late afternoon light piercing the Forbes Field stands dramatically spotlighted this monumental image. Ditka ran 35 yards slowing with each step as Thomas recovered and, after a frantic chase, caught him from behind. Mike fell flat out, completely spent from the maximum effort. After this 63-yard play Leclerc kicked a field goal to tie the score 17-17. The tie game affected the race in both divisions.



As the thrilling races tightened, a generation of great defensive linemen in the NFL knew the Sunday afternoons in their careers were numbered. Gino Marchetti of Baltimore, Andy Robustelli of New York, Leo Nomellini of San Francisco, Ed Henke of St. Louis, and the Steelers' indomitable Ernie Stautner (above), all ranked with the best of all time and would not be easily replaced. Stautner's very presence in the Pittsburgh defensive line has meant the difference in many close games. Battered

and injured, he has kept coming back to fire the team. Today, under the bitter circumstances of our national tragedy, Ernie did the job again, and with heavy hearts all the men played, because they were told to play, and they played the only way they knew — all out. Stautner led the tough Steeler defense to a crucial stand-off against Chicago. In New York the Giants lost to St. Louis and the Browns beat Dallas at Cleveland to establish a three-way tie for first place in the East.



The west coast's best runner, Los Angeles halfback Dick Bass (22), who scored two Ram touchdowns, sets up third.

TWELFTH WEEK: **RAMS 21 – FORTY-NINERS 17**

Kezar Stadium, San Francisco

The Rams are on the way back! With one more season of play and another training camp under Harland Svare and his staff they will be a contending force in the Western Division in 1964. The Forty-Niners have dominated the meetings since that memorable afternoon in 1959 when their young defense of Matt Hazeltine, Dave Baker, Eddie Dove and Abe Woodson, and Y. A. Tittle and Hugh McElhenny on offense ran over a Ram team that was supposed to run over them, and won 34-0. Bill Wade was the Ram quarterback and Del Shofner their top receiver. How the fortunes of football do change! This season, with the Forty-Niners floundering, Red Hickey retired and Jack Christiansen, the defensive coach, was moved up to head coach. It was almost an identical coaching change to that made a year ago, when Harland Svare replaced Bob Waterfield in Los Angeles.

Coach Svare, who after one year had gotten things into a sound working order, summed up the Rams' progress. "The one change today was starting Marlin McKeever at tight end. The shift happened a few weeks ago.

McKeever was my middle linebacker when I took over last year. Then this season we moved Mike Henry to the middle and put Marlin at cornerback because he was faster and we thought he'd be better there. Recently John Adams, our tight end, injured his back and so we were forced to give McKeever a try on offense, although I had had it in the back of my mind for quite a while. We knew he had good hands, but didn't know about his blocking. Well, this was the first game he's started there. He's a rough, tough fellow and he blocked very well today. In many ways today's game was our best offensive game. Everything revolves around your quarterback and Roman Gabriel (next page) has been the difference in why we started winning in mid-season. He came on and we took off. He stands fearlessly in the pocket and seems nine feet tall. The players all respect him and know they can win with him and he knows he has their respect, which is everything for a quarterback. Dick Bass, after a poor first half, started to play well, as did Wilson. The big factor, however, is Ray Wietecha's coaching of our offensive line, particularly Ken Kirk at center."





“I believe in excitement”

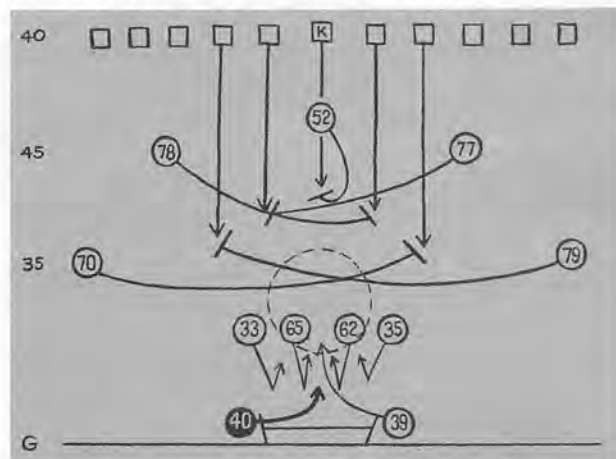
Punt returns in the NFL are treacherous because the punt-covering teams are so aggressive and cover kicks so well. Last season only one punt was returned for a touchdown in 98 games—Abe Woodson’s magnificent 85-yard run through the entire Green Bay team. The Forty-Niners defensive right wing, and chairman of the board of San Francisco’s kickoff- and punt-return teams, is the best in NFL history, and ranks with Tunnell and Matson. Woodson doesn’t run downfield, he flows. His long hurdler’s stride gives him a quicksilver grace that is beautiful to watch, and deadly to defend against once he has room to make his move.

“It’s a funny thing,” Woodson explained, “the best returns come against the best kickers, Lary, Chandler, Villanueva. The good punters put that ball high and deep and I can see who’s coming and make my move. All I want is time. Those guys are on you so fast that you only have a chance for *one move* and you’ve got to figure it’s for the best. I want to maneuver and that’s what they don’t want me to do. If the kick is of medium height and short you signal for a fair catch, or else it is just a matter of them waiting for you to catch it and annihilating you. On all punts I’m free to use my own judgment, except when the kick is inside the 10. We play the percentages that it will go into the end zone and I let it go. You run a kickoff out, but not a punt.

“Before they punt Mike Dowdle gives the ‘return call’ either right or left in a brief huddle. On the right return their linemen cover straight downfield. Our linemen bang them to slow their charge, then circle back over to the right sideline to form a fence for me. If I take the punt where I am waiting I then must move laterally and get to my ‘fence’ of blockers. There is no time for tricks. I’ve got to turn the safety corner, our nearest man to me along the line. That is the key, and when I get into that protective alley along the sideline I know I will get some distance. One of their men can blow this whole set-up with a quick penetration. He can not only drop you, but make you change your direction and leave your blockers, and when you’re isolated that’s what they want. On the punt I returned today for 51 yards we had a right-return call but I ran left. I couldn’t get to my blockers, who had all moved far to my right, but I could see their outside man drifting in toward my interference. I figured if I faked right and beat him left it would work, and it did. Then I was on my own.

“On kickoffs you have a chance for longer returns. For one thing, we have a fierce pride in our kick-off return team. They do such a head-knocking job of blocking. We’re aiming to run it all the way *every time*. Bob

St. Clair calls returns as we huddle before the kick and we can go three ways, outside, left or right, or up the middle, which the men prefer because they get better blocking angles. If a left return is called and the kick comes right then we automatically switch.”



The diagram above shows the Forty-Niners’ return up the middle. Woodson (40) is against the left goal post, Alexander (39) is on the right, the four man wedge, Cooper (35), Magac (62), Sieminski (65), and Vollenweider (33) are on the 20, St. Clair (79), and Krueger (70) out wide on the 35, and Bosley (77), Rubke (52), and Thomas (78) at midfield. As the opposing team comes downfield under the kick they are primarily interested in breaking up the wedge, mainly by running right into it. Woodson’s wedge men *must* run over them.

“If I take the kickoff at the goal line,” Abe Woodson continued, “I head for the wedge behind Kermit Alexander, who is a most important man. He yells to the wedge when to start upfield, and once underway he can see and pick up the first breakdown. For the first 10 yards you build up speed, (drawing right) but you reserve something until that instant when you’re in dangerous ground and you pick your route — *then you turn it on!* The best way to return is to take it right at them. I figure between the 20 and 30 is the biggest 10 yards of the whole deal. That’s the point of conflict. If my blockers get me past the 30 then it’s up to me and I usually have only one man to beat. Once I get deep I may maneuver to the outside and pick up my convoy of blockers. On my longest run of 105 yards in 1959 against the Rams there were 14 blocks made. Our men are schooled to get up and make the second effort.

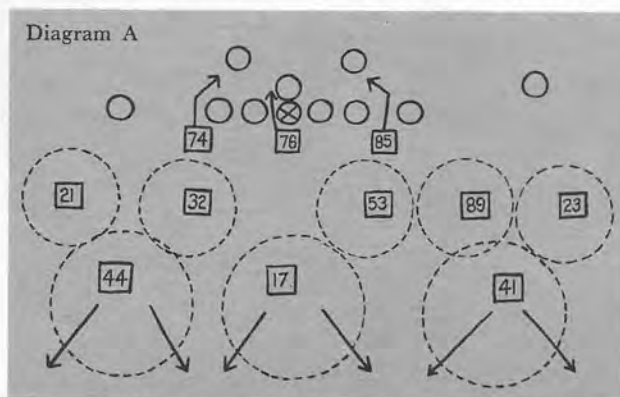
“I believe in excitement! Being a defensive halfback isn’t too exciting, however, it’s a job and I enjoy doing it . . . but the return teams keep me going.”



Prevent Defense

Many professional football games are decided in the final two minutes. With both teams well prepared for each other and relatively balanced, the leaders must be ready for the desperation attack of a trailing opponent. Six points come quickly when a defense makes a mistake. Because it is vital for a defense to prevent the quick late score, there has evolved the "prevent defense."

When Bob Waters replaced veteran Lamar McHan midway in the fourth quarter and threw to J. D. Smith



for a touchdown on his first play, the score closed to 21-17. Another late-scoring bomb and the Forty-Niners would win it. The Rams, knowing San Francisco would

go to the long pass, went into their prevent defense (diagram A). This alignment puts three rush men on the line: Olsen (74), Grier (76), and Lundy (85). These three charmers are all over 6' 5" and average 275 pounds. Behind the three rush men are five short-zone defenders: Meador (21), Pardee (32), Henry (53), Livingston (89) and Smith (23). The fast deep men with the final responsibility against the long pass are Whitmyer (44), Britt (17), and Crow (41).

Harland Svare detailed the responsibilities of his prevent defense for various offensive plays. "We went into it late in the game when Henry made the key interception that broke their backs (picture below). This defense is used when the offense must strike deep to score. It is only used at the end of the first half or end of a game and it is not a particularly strong defense when your opponent needs a field goal. This is strictly a containing defense. Our three lines handle all possibilities: The three deep men watch the long pass; the five middle men guard against the short passes over the center and on the lines; we give up the sweep and pitch-outs for short gains, and we leave the draw play to Grier (76) in the center, picking it up late with the five short men as we do with any quick traps. The short-zone men also bust up the screens. The main precaution is against the long bomb and the rush men keep the pressure on the passer."

Coach Svare (left) watches the Rams' "prevent defense" work as Mike Henry intercepts pass intended for Stickles (85).





With first and goal on the Lions' 7, Cleveland's Jim Brown is dropped decisively for a 5-yard loss on crucial series.

THIRTEENTH WEEK: **LIONS 38 - BROWNS 10**

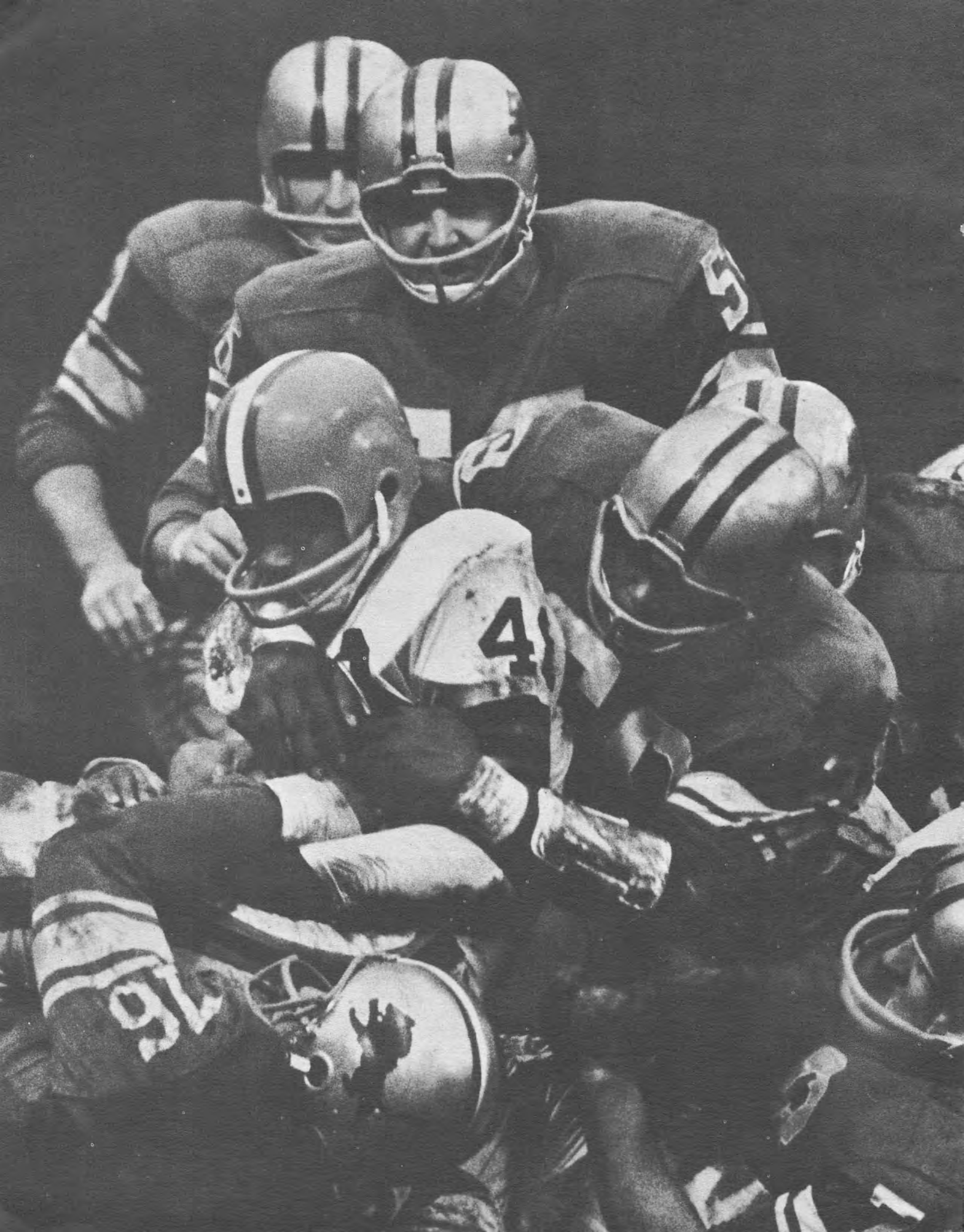
Tiger Stadium, Detroit

The Detroit Lions laid down their crutches on Thanksgiving and tied Green Bay to wreck their title chance and today they reared up and took the Browns apart. There was no question in the minds of the 51,000 fans present that had *this* Lion team been able to play all year at today's strength they would have changed the 1963 race in the West. Their powerful job on the Browns this gloomy afternoon *did* change the race in the East, since it wiped Cleveland out of first place.

The game started smartly and it took only eight plays to show how things would go. Jim Brown ran for a first down, but Frank Ryan missed when he tried a run. Collins punted and on the first play Earl Morrall, installed at last as the Lions top quarterback, threw to his fullback over center and just missed. Then after Lewis got four in the line, Morrall passed to Terry Barr for 75 yards and a touchdown. As the second quarter began Morrall took the team 35 yards in seven plays throwing only once to Jim Gibbons for 13 yards and scored again as Lewis went off tackle. On the second play after the kickoff the Browns' Ernie Green shot through the right side for 73 yards before LeBeau caught him on the 7. Naturally, Jim Brown carried on the first play (picture

above) and the Lion defense exploded as McCord (78) and Clark (59) smashed him for a 5-yard loss. On the next play Night Train Lane defended artfully against a pass to Collins between the posts and the third down pass also failed. Groza kicked a field goal, but the Browns' momentum was stopped right there.

After the game, George Wilson, the stoic Lion coach, paid his men a tribute. "I have not said this to anyone, but it is a credit to the men. They worked as hard this week — *each man* — as dedicated as if they were fighting for the title. This takes a lot when you know you're out of it and have been crippled by injuries of such ridiculous proportions. The Thanksgiving tie and this win today and the way they played on offense and defense leaves no doubt in my mind that we would have been in contention all the way had we not been hurt, and even then we lost five games by 3 points or less. If we had won those, we would still be in it. That shows our strength. At one time we had 26 men injured out of 37 and although a few of those played they were only 75% effective. This is our first victory in five games, but you wouldn't think it after watching our team today. They're a remarkable group of ballplayers."



In the Lions' Den

"Don't go in the cage tonight, Mother darling, for the Lions are ferocious and they bite!" was a lovely old tune and they were humming it on the Cleveland bench when the Lions' defense, led by the masterful Joe Schmidt, went to work. The Lions have always had remarkable defensive teams, but this present crew, back together after a year of injuries, has flashes of appetite for devouring enemy ballcarriers that is truly alarming. The picture at left is an awesome testimonial to a well-diagnosed play as Cleveland's talented halfback, Ernie Green (48), is caught in the blue-shirted vertigo. You get the feeling watching the Lions' defense operate, watching Joe Schmidt's face as he calls the defensive plays, that they really know what they're doing. On the right, quarterback Ryan is upended on an early run and, in the center, the Brown passer is horsecollared by Stan Williams on a blitz as Roger Brown (76) rumbles in for the ball. Ryan's blockers seem to be in a good position to watch the painful 12-yard loss. Below, Cleveland scores as Frank Ryan, on a broken pattern, threw half the length of the football field to Gary Collins (86). The pass went above the roof and Collins, who is a foot taller than his defender, Bruce Maher (21), caught it when it finally came down for Cleveland's only score.

Detroit's big effort of the day was throttling Jim Brown. They held him to 61 yards. "Let's face it," Wayne Walker said, "it's awfully easy to key off that big man. You just know they got to go with him and every time we've played against the Browns, Jim Brown has been easy. You just know what he's going to do most every time. When he starts to his left toward me, he can only do two things. Drive inside or take a quick pitch and go wide. On the goal-line play, when I saw that halfback start my way, then take a little hitch, I just know he's going to block the end and it will be outside. Then I move up fast, but our pursuit which we had worked on all week came across from the far side and got to him first and we dumped him for a minus 5. It's so simple keying off the big guy it's a shame. The Giants have said that for years. Keying Cleveland is a snap."

Captain Joe Schmidt, who sings when he's not playing, was in fine spirits now that he and his associates were back in form. He explained, in a careful confident way, what happened on Green's long run. "It was a missed assignment. I called a 4-2 gap where we all angle to our right for the gaps and the defensive left end is supposed to take the second man out of the backfield. Well, Jim Brown flared and McCord went out with him and that left a hole for Green to run through. It shouldn't have happened."

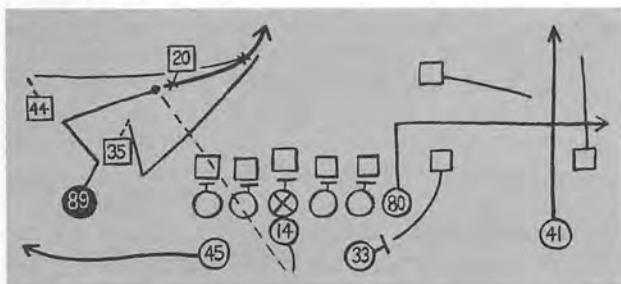




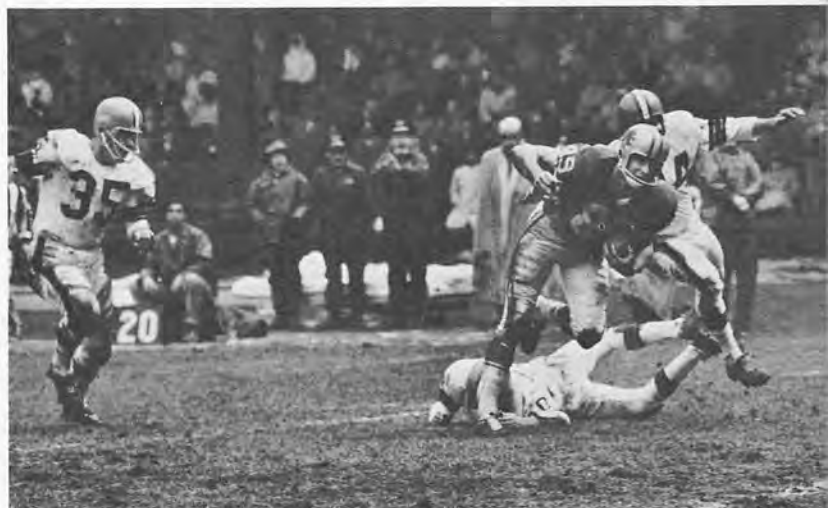
Go-ahead Score

The heroic figure on the left is Earl Morrall, the Detroit Lion quarterback, passing under pressure from Cleveland's veteran Bob Gain (79) and his former teammate Bill Glass (80). Morrall, with 13 completions for 271 yards, set a new all-time Lion passing record of 2,499 yards and called a magnificent game. He has to be considered with Tittle and Unitas and Starr and Wade when it comes to thinking on the field. He has a brilliant mind for football tactics and unquestionably is the most underrated quarterback in the League. He knows where he's going and how he wants to get there all of the time. He passed four times to Barr, twice to Lewis, three to Gibbons, and four to Cogdill, and each pass was perfect. The key play to Cogdill decided the game.

Gail Cogdill was asked in jest how he likes playing offense for a change. He had been forced to play defense when the team was hurting. The handsome receiver answered in all seriousness, "*I wanted to stay on defense!* I really liked it. I tried to stay, but they wouldn't let me. I didn't do much today. They used me for decoy purposes mostly, but the touchdown that put us ahead 21-10 was a big play and it was a matter of three men taking one step. We line up strong right with Terry Barr (41) outside and Jim Gibbon (80) in tight. I ran off the line, split to the left and measured my every step and it paid off. I had to influence the initial move of Fiss (35), the corner linebacker first, then the halfback Shofner (44) (diagram below). At the snap I ran in at



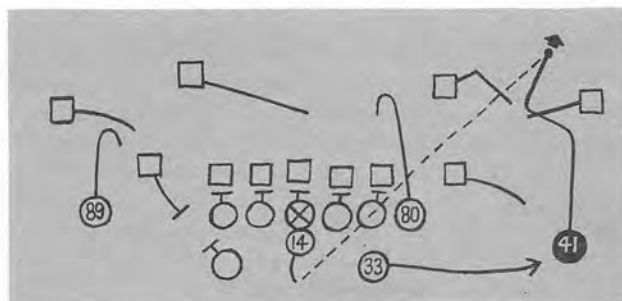
a slight angle and the linebacker backed up two steps to cover me. Then I slanted out right at the halfback and he backed up two steps thinking I was going to the outside. Then I cut sharply. The linebacker was not there since he was forced to come back up to cover our back flaring. The safety was watching Gibbon deep and I caught it right in front of him (top right). The strong-side safety of course took after Barr who had gone on a fly to the end zone. After the catch I tried to turn up field as quickly as possible and was hit by Fichtner (20), then by Shofner, who circled over (center pictures), and finally dove into the end zone between the posts with Galen Fiss hanging on (bottom)."





Terry breaks 1,000

Nick Pietrosante, the rugged fullback, shook his head. "Oh, if our first play had only hit, I'd still be running (top left). It's a fine play and we worked hard on it all week. It was so valuable today, since it is a companion play to Terry Barr's touchdown and it set them up for it. But," said Nick, "the biggest play of the day was the third play from scrimmage. Morrall's pass (center) to Terry Barr. It was third and five. They were looking for something tight and we called a look-in on the right. We caught them in a Blue defense, which is double coverage. The halfback and safety were both on Terry (41). He cut in (diagram below) and the safety, who had taken two steps back, hooked up to defend as Barr was

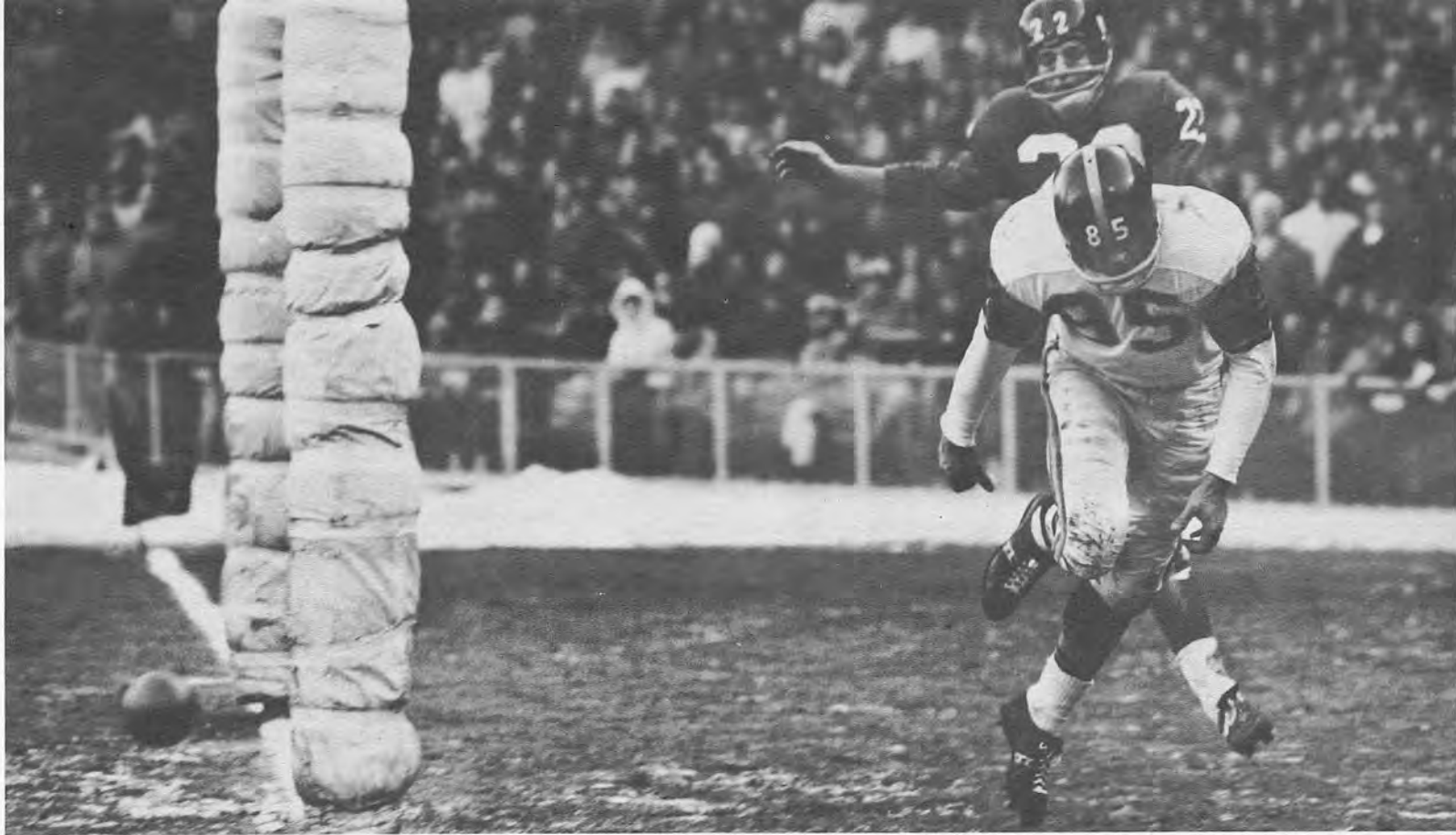


cutting. Terry, with a dip, then went behind the halfback on his own and hoped that Morrall would see him."

"He saw me all the way," said the flanker, "and that was a good thing." Morrall smiled, "It was no trouble and never is when you have time. You can wait and watch your man, but if you don't have the time you can look bad on a move like that. This was no trouble. I had great protection." Terry Barr's 1,022 yards on passes to date is a new Detroit record, spanning 28 years, and proves how costly his injury was to the club last season.

Joe Schmidt, singing and shaving, summed up the game. "We're surprised they have gotten this far in the East with a secondary like that. They just don't play good defensive football."

The most gratifying part of the Lions' victory was that the Detroit fans who had suffered so long through a season of disappointments had a wonderful time at this final home game. They thoroughly enjoyed the slaughter. One six-year-old boy, sitting along the rail with his father, and attending his first game, was a little confused about the Lions playing in Tiger Stadium. He asked his dad, "How do you tell a lion from a tiger?" His father, seeing the Detroit mascot (bottom left) watching the play intently on the sideline, answered with a wink, "Son, tigers don't wear galoshes!"



With certain touchdown to Gary Ballman (85), Ed Brown throws into dirt as half ends, crippling Pittsburgh's chances.

FOURTEENTH WEEK: **GIANTS 33 - STEELERS 17**

Yankee Stadium, New York

At noon on this final Sunday of the 1963 season no one knew who would play for the Championship. Bears-Giants, Pittsburgh-Bears, Pittsburgh-Green Bay, or Green Bay-New York for the third successive year. Four hours later everyone knew: Giants-Bears!

At 11:45 A.M. the Steelers' bus arrived at Yankee Stadium. Ernie Stautner was first off and practically ran to the dressing room. The rest of the team was equally confident. Pittsburgh's wonderful owner, Art Rooney, had never won a title and now Destiny was dangling it before his eyes on a thread. The Steeler team had come to this final game on that thread. They had opened the season with an Eagle tie and thought it disastrous. Later they tied the Bears and the Eagles again and the tie games became a blessing because of an old league rule that eliminates ties in figuring percentages. Although the Giants had a 10-3 record, theirs was 7-3 without the tie games, and a victory over New York today would give them the title on a .727 percentage. Destiny sat on their bench as Gary Ballman caught the first touchdown of his pro career to beat the Browns in the gloom of Pitt Stadium, then Ballman in the final minute ran a punt back 92 yards against Washington the following week to win

again. The week before this final game, while trailing Dallas, quarterback Ed Brown faked a punt and passed 42 yards to Red Mack and finally scored on a run by Theron Sapp with seconds left to win again 24-19.

Today Destiny wasn't sitting on the Steeler bench. She was up in the Maras' box drinking Irish coffee and having a hell of a time watching Ed Brown's passes sail all over the lot. The Steelers knew they could win and were emotionally hopped-up. The Giant defense was the balance of power. They had to keep the game under control, force the breaks, and Tittle had to score early since the Giants were aware of Pittsburgh's incredible resiliency late in a contest. New York's primary task was stopping John Henry Johnson. He was Pittsburgh's big man, since the Steelers are a running, ball-control team, using the pass for the long gain.

In the West, Green Bay had beaten a stubborn Forty-Niner team on Saturday and the Bears were faced with the now mighty Lions. But at the eleventh hour, Night Train Lane could not play in the Detroit secondary and the Bears had an edge. They exploited it but only barely won a thriller, 24-14, and the coveted Western title.



Showdown

The Giant defense forced the first break. They always do in the big games. Theron Sapp fumbled on the opening play from scrimmage after Pittsburgh took the kickoff, and Don Chandler kicked a field goal for a 3-0 Giant lead.

On the next kickoff, Pittsburgh's firecracker end, Gary Ballman, returned brilliantly 57 yards. On third and 4 Ed Brown overthrew his first of many passes of the day to Ballman and Lou Michaels tried a field goal. He missed, but Pittsburgh took the ball right back on a fumble. Ed Brown went for broke. He hit Ballman perfectly on a deep pass and as the end sidestepped Dick Lynch the ball popped loose. Erich Barnes, who had crossed the field, picked it up and returned 34 yards (top left) to break the Steelers' early momentum and give the Giants possession. Asked why he had come across field Barnes smiled and said, "I always like to be close to the ball. You never can tell. You just can't beat pursuit."

Y.A. took over. He passed to Aaron Thomas for a first down, then unloaded the long bomb to Del Shofner (bottom left) for a 41-yard touchdown before a sea of loyal rooters. The long pass, Tittle to Shofner, has become a classic. Del made Willie Daniel (44, left) look bad.

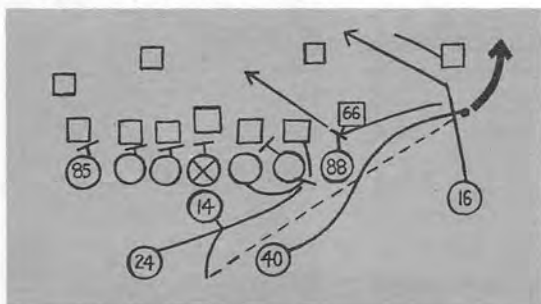
On the next series, Brown passed again as the 9-0 score and Giant line were forcing them off their running game, and Lynch intercepted — his ninth of the year. Ed Brown, receiving tremendous protection from his line, had all the time to throw but overshot Ballman once more on a possible touchdown. On a third and 1 the Giants stopped John Henry for no gain and on fourth and 1, instead of a field goal, Brown sent Sapp into the line, but the Giant defense crushed him for no gain. Minutes later, Tittle hit Shofner deep for a 44-yard gain and then sent Joe Morrison in on a touchdown pass.

It was 16-0, but the Steelers kept coming. Brown passed to Dial for a first down. Sapp ran right end for another. Then Ballman (85) beat Lynch again on a post pattern, but with the speedster alone in the end zone, Brown threw the ball into the ground (page 83). A touchdown here, and a field goal on the fourth-down try, and Pittsburgh would have left the field trailing 16-10 at halftime. It would have been a different game.

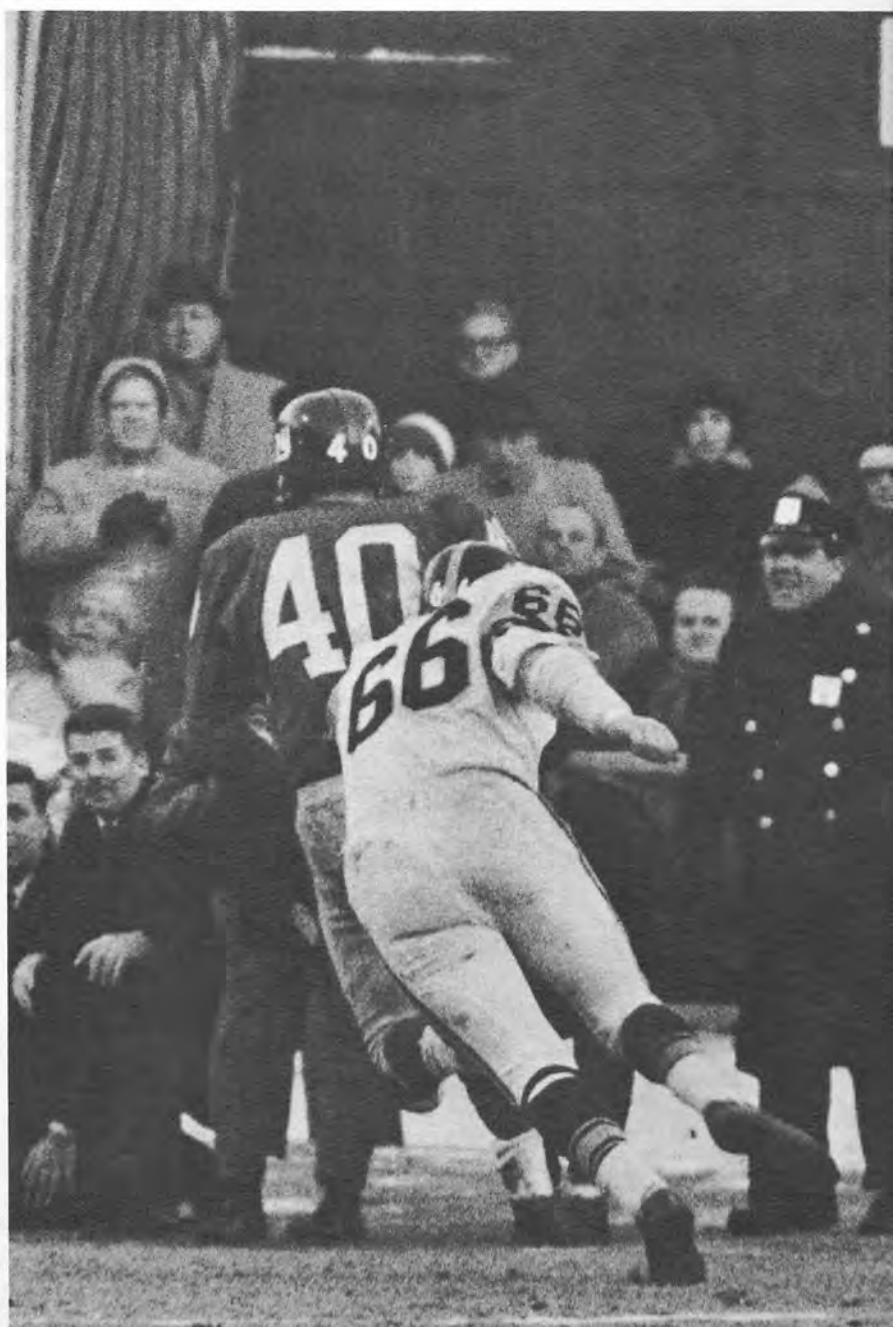


The second half began with the Steelers still hoping Destiny would throw down the thread. They came out roaring and kicked a field goal. Then with third and 1 and the Giants in tight, John Henry (35) found a little daylight for the first time (next page) and raced 48 yards to the Giants' 10. Brown hit Ballman with his first sharp pass to score, and it was 16-10.

The next series brought the Giants the game and the Eastern title. Backed up on third down on their 23, Y.A. called a deep slant over the middle to Frank Gifford (16). Tittle's timing was perfect and he just got the pass away before the huge arm of Lou Michaels swooped down. Gifford came across, lunged and shot out his right hand like he was picking up the morning paper, and the ball stuck. The flanker drove to the 47 before Glenn Glass (43) brought him down (top right). It was not as amazing a catch as Gifford had made earlier in the year against the Cardinals, but it was outstanding. The 334th catch of a remarkable career! On the next play Tittle threw to Gifford again for another fine catch to the 22. Then he repeated his first scoring call to Morrison (bottom) for a touchdown and a solid lead of 23-10. It broke the Steeler thread! No one of these three plays was more important than the other, but together they had to be the finest drive of the Giant season and a masterful display of execution by Tittle, Gifford and Morrison.



Playing in place of the injured Alex Webster, Morrison was awarded the game ball. He described the big play. "It's our slant 45 B shoot," he said with enthusiasm. "We pull the on-side guard to make it look like an off-tackle play. They were in a storm defense. I move right outside, but Y.A. must have had good fakes, because they were really closing in. I had only the linebacker Pottios (66) to beat" (diagram). In the bitter Steeler dressing room, heartsick that Destiny had deserted them, John Henry reflected on the tough showdown meeting. "The game could have gone either way, but our quarterback was having one of *those* days and Y.A. was having one of his beautiful days."

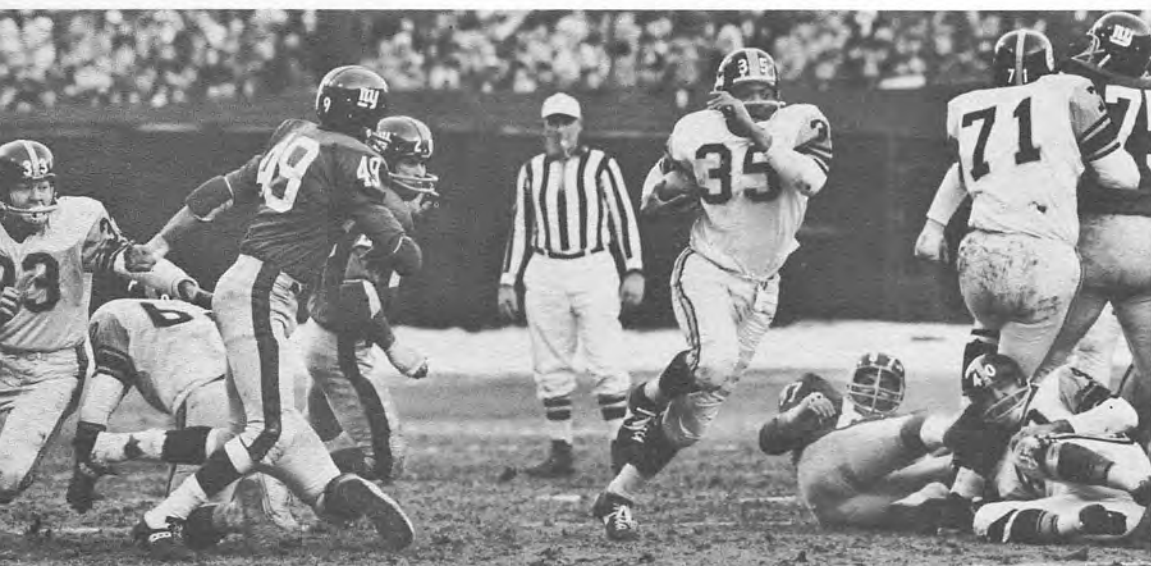


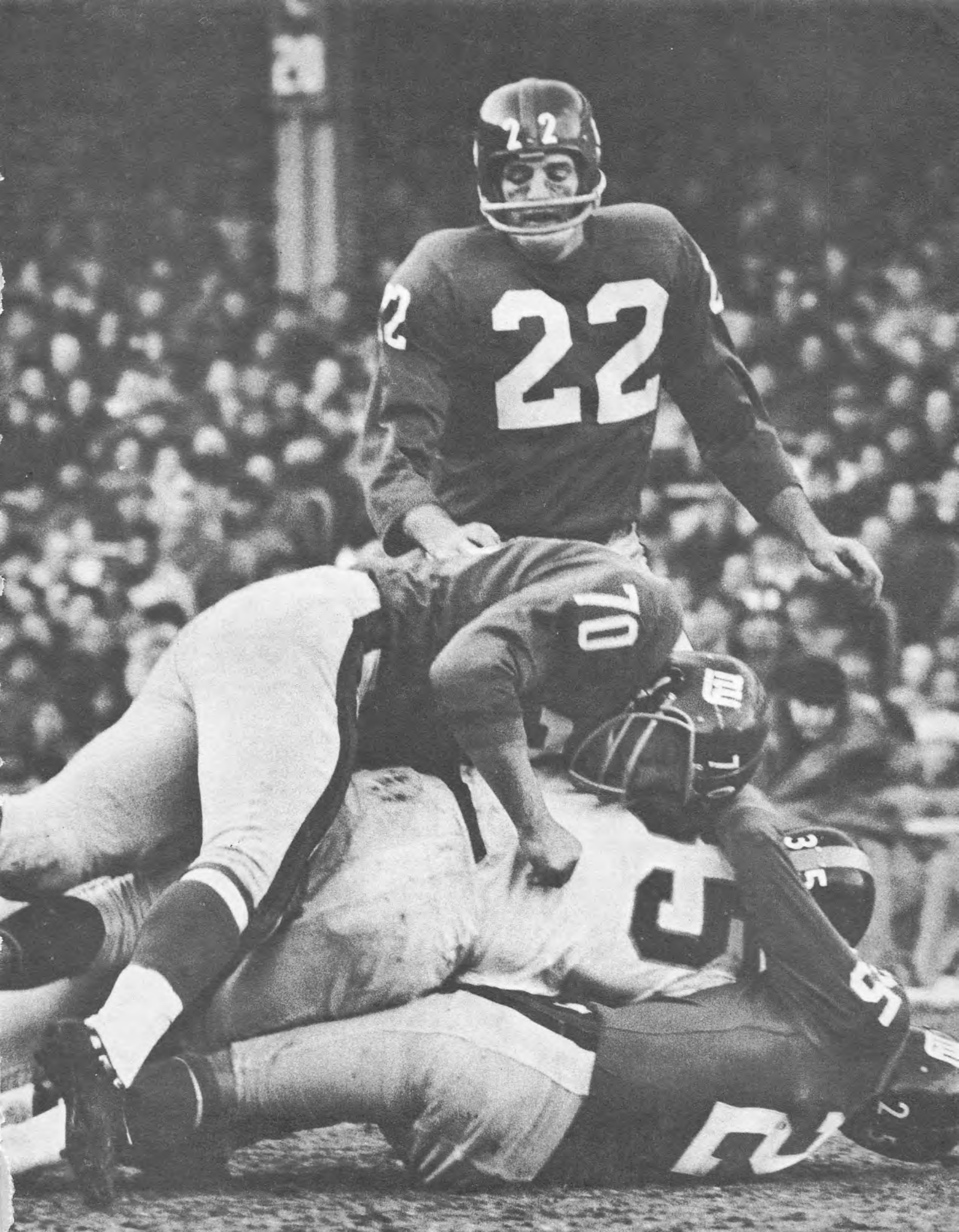


Giant captain Andy Robustelli's victory smile at game's end.

Eight Golden Years

The Giant defense, led by Andy Robustelli, has outlasted all the rest — the Colts, the Eagles, and the Packers. A tribute to perhaps the best defense of all time for consistent great play. One man doesn't make it. A Webb, a Pesonen, a Winter, a Hillebrand, a Scott, Sam Huff and the front four, Patton deep, and Lynch and Barnes on the outside. Rosey Grier, Bill Svoboda, Cliff Livingston, Emlen Tunnell, Lyndon Crow, and Dick Nolan have been names in the Giant defense, but they have come and gone without decreasing the effectiveness of the defensive system that was rooted with Steve Owen when Tunnell and Tom Landry were in the secondary, continued under the astute coaching of Landry when Harland Svare and Robustelli were in the front seven, continued under Svare, and now under Robustelli and Jim Patton. The Giants' defense has remained great for eight long years because of their pride and the sound integration and fusion of coach and player. They have won six times in eight years. They have withstood all the pressures, they have always stopped the *big man* in the *big game* — Casares in 1956, Jim Brown every year, John Henry today (right). This was Robustelli's last game in Yankee Stadium. On the field he was captain of the defense; their inspiration, the man who fired them for each game, and made better football players out of Katcavage, Modzelewski, and LoVetere. This indomitable defense has brought more joy to Giant fans over these years than they will ever know.







Coach of the Year

GEORGE HALAS

Chicago Bears

Coach George Halas left Wrigley Field at noon on Saturday and drove his black Continental with license number GH 5555, down Lake Shore Drive to Madison and into the garage across from the Chicago Bear office. The attendant came up with a big greeting. "Hello, Papa Bear, gonna bring us a Championship tomorrow?" The coach smiled and said, "We can do it."

On the way up to his office he admitted that when driving alone from the park to the Loop, about 18 minutes, he thought about tactics. "I think mostly of quarterbacking while driving. I thought of it just now, of what we could hit them with tomorrow. You know it's amazing how clearly you see things when you drive alone like that. I use that time for strategy." In his hand he carried the red leather folder with a rubber band securing the blue typewritten ready list and extensively-detailed game plan for the battle with the Giants. He placed it carefully on his desk and talked about the year. "I am proud to receive the Coach of the Year Award on behalf of the Chicago Bear players and coaching staff who worked so hard and effectively in wresting the Western Division Title from the World Champion Green Bay Packers. With good health, my Hall of Fame induction, the Western Title, and this award, there's no question it is the most memorable year in my career."

"The Bears won because we had the two qualities you need to win. We never beat ourselves by making mistakes; we dominated the NFL by leading in *ten defen-*

sive categories and we were good and . . . *lucky*, particularly in avoiding the injuries that hit the Packers and the Lions and Colts. When we lost Ed O'Bradovich and Maury Youmans early in the season Bob Kilcullen took over and turned in a fine performance. Ron Bull carried us while Willie Galimore was injured and then both were ready in the stretch."

"The ground work for this title began three seasons ago. We traded for Bill Wade with the title in mind. We started to rebuild our defensive system. Those were the long-range moves. Then this season, from the first day in camp, every hour of every day and night and every exhibition game was dedicated to beating Green Bay."

"Now we are here on the eve of the Championship game. I want to win tomorrow. We will be terribly disappointed if we don't win. However, it has been a fine year and remember, when you win a Championship you *earn* it. The hours of victory will be brief on that field tomorrow, but behind them are the endless, tedious hours of preparation and planning all year long."

He clasped his hands and quietly reflected, "*New York-Chicago.*" The great coach said those two names very slowly and the 30 years were there in his eyes. "Our meeting again is good for the League. It's the continuation of the great tradition, the history. The only trouble," he concluded with a wink and a laugh, "is that there haven't been more of them."



With first and goal on the three, 265 lb. Doug Atkins cuts 185 lb. fullback Joe Morrison in half to stop the Giants.

THE DANCING BEAR CLASSIC:

CHICAGO 14 - NEW YORK 10

1963 NFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME Wrigley Field, Chicago

In years to come, when the young Giant fans grow older, they will tell their children a fable. It will be a story of the Three Wonderful Years and how they came to be.

Long ago there was a tired old Quarterback in San Francisco who always lost. One Sunday afternoon, after a ballgame, he was driving home and he was very sad and he met a Wizard in a filling station. "How would you like to be a winner and play in the Championship Game?" said the Wizard to the old Quarterback. "I would sure like it fine. How?" said the Quarterback. "I will have you traded to the Giants." "Great!" said the Quarterback. "There is only one catch," said the Wizard. "When you are a Giant you will win the Eastern Title in your first year and in your second year you will win again and set an all-time touchdown record, and in your third year you will win again and break your own record. But . . . you will not win the Championship." "What! Why?" said the Quarterback. "Because you won't score," said the Wizard. "That's the catch." "Forget it," said the Quarterback. "Either you stay here and lose or

become a Giant and win," the Wizard said. The old Quarterback, who was not really so old, *was* very smart. He figured if he could outwit an end with a bootleg and beat a linebacker with a square-out, and a deep back with the long bomb, he could certainly con a Wizard. "O.K. it's a deal," he said. Hearing this, the Wizard touched the old Quarterback with his cordileoné (the Italian word for magic wand) and he was a Giant with a young heart and spring in his legs and he became a winner in the East just like the Wizard said. But . . .

On Saturday noon just before he left the park, George Halas peeked out the square glass window in the clubhouse door and saw the Giants take the field for practice. They reacted to the 5° weather by running twice as fast, like kids in a first snowstorm. Only Y. A. Tittle seemed reserved and introspective. Perhaps it was because he was back in that bitter cold Chicago ballpark with the frozen turf where he had lost so many times to the Bears when he was in the Western Division. Perhaps it was nothing, but he didn't seem himself.

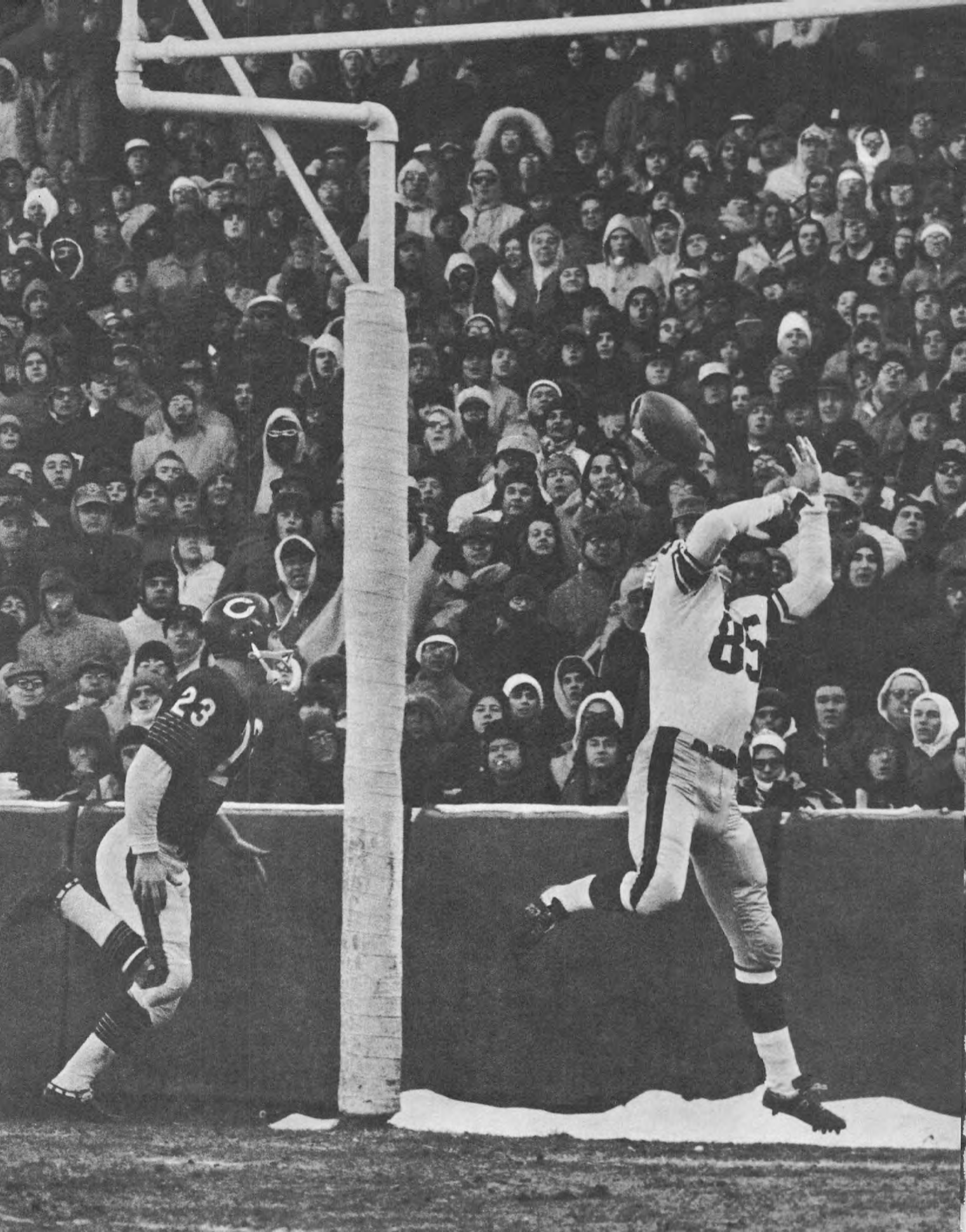


Dreaded Moment

At 7:22 of the first quarter, in his third successive Championship, Y. A. Tittle threw his first touchdown pass in a title game. Frank Gifford caught it in the corner and every Giant fan was sure this game would be easy. No one knew then the price Tittle paid for that score.

It was 4° at high noon in historic Wrigley Field when Don Chandler kicked off to the Bears. Galimore and Marconi got five, but Bill Wade, on a keeper over center, ran for 8 and a first down. The Bears couldn't move so Wade ran again for 12 to the 41 but fumbled and Erich Barnes recovered. (Wade's running was a definite part of the Bear game plan. They knew if they flared their fullback, Huff would move out with him, leaving the middle empty.) Joe Morrison tried the line for a yard, then got 11 on a screen to the right and a first down. King got 3 over guard. Then Morrison carried up the middle three successive times for 12 and another first down. With second and 8 on the 14 the Bears, expecting a pass, put on a full rush. Joe Fortunato (31) came at Tittle from the front, Doug Atkins (81) from his blind side, and Larry Morris (33) shot the gap over tackle (above). Y.A. took the snap and set up quickly. Joe Morrison tried to pick up Morris, but the corner linebacker ran over him and Joe just caught a shoe to spill him. Morris, instead of sprawling flat and being out of the play, made a great reflex effort and started a roll (pictures left) into Tittle's firmly planted left leg. In the photograph at right the moment all Giant fans dreaded all season long happened. With Tittle's shoe pinned under his hip, the aggressive Bear crashes his 230 pounds against the quarterback's knee, tearing the ligaments as the scoring pass is away. In pain, he continued to play.





Turnabout

After an exchange of punts, Galimore carried, gained 7 but fumbled. Dick Pesonen recovered for the Giants on the Bears' 31. *The game turned on the next two plays.*

Tittle, apparently sound, went for the touchdown on first down. Del Shofner (85) ran a post pattern and beat Dave Whitsell (23) by five yards into the end zone. Y.A. put the ball right there on Shofner's fingertips (picture left). *The ball touched the great receiver's left hand and bounced away.* He had jumped an instant too late.

On second down Y.A. want for a touchdown again *and he had it*, or at least a long gain. The Giants lined up strong right and on the snap Gifford ran a down-and-out, taking Petitbon and McRae with him. Aaron Thomas slanted in and Fortunato picked him up. King flared far to the left. Morrison (40) ran out to the right for another screen. Tittle rolled out to the strong side and cocked his arm (top right), but Morrison did not turn. Stroud set up his block perfectly on O'Bradovich and released to the outside as Morrison turned for the pass too late (second picture). Tittle had turned to the far side to find King. Had he thrown to Morrison it may have gone all the way. The pass was released but King also turned too late, and the ball was grabbed by Larry Morris (33) guarding the outside, who ran it by the shocked Giant bench (third picture). *Morris went 61 yards with the interception to the Giant 5.* Wade drove over as the center of his line blew LoVetere and Rosey Brown back (bottom). "What might have been" is always an abstraction, but had Shofner caught the pass, the psychological advantage of beating the Bear strength — their defense — with two first-quarter touchdowns after recovering two fumbles, may have opened the flood gates for New York. Instead of 14-0 it was 7-7 and the pain was setting in and freezing Y.A.'s knee.

The Giants came on again with third and 1. Tittle caught the Bear defense for 36 yards on a deep slant to Thomas. Phil King carried right down the center three times behind the blocks of Larson and Dess for a first down on the Bear 3. *Then came three failures* (page 89). Chandler had to kick and the Giants led 10-7.

The Bears could do nothing on offense in the first half. On the next series King and Webster got 25 on three carries. Then, on a long incomplete pass to Gifford, Y.A. felt the knee pop and he temporarily left the game. *Chandler next missed a field goal which was to prove costly.* Had he succeeded here, then in the fourth quarter, with a score of 14-13, he could have tried another from the Giant 39 with 32 seconds remaining.

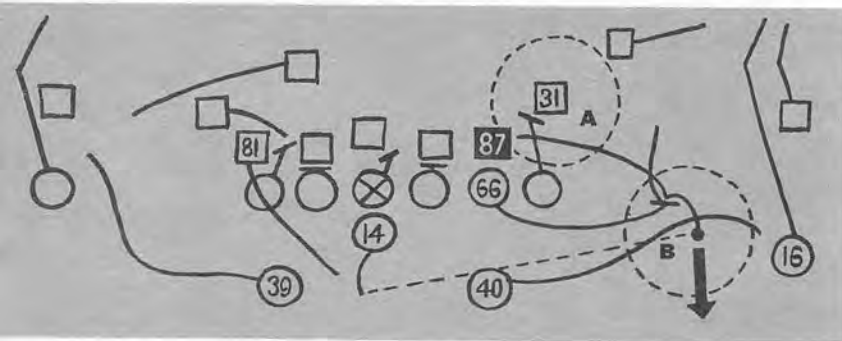




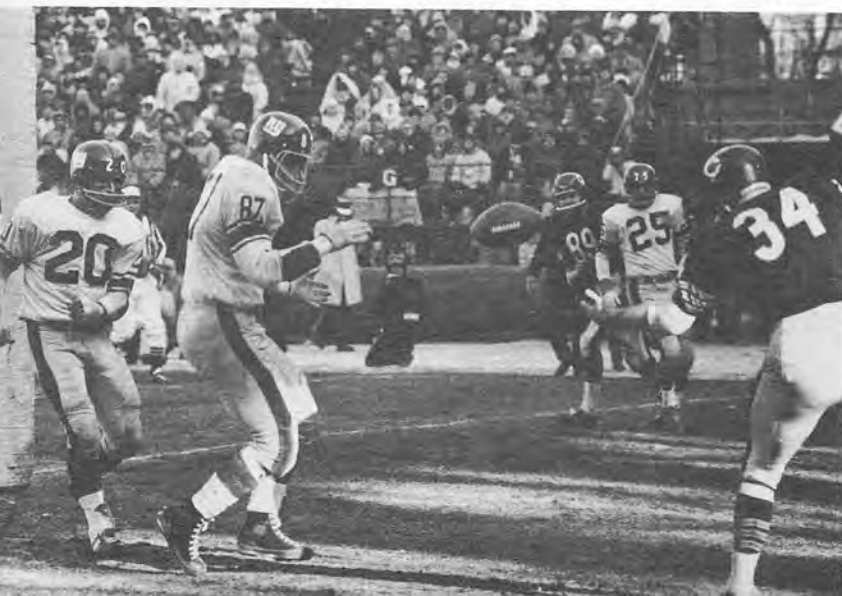
Primary Objective

"We had a number of things that we felt we had to do today to win," a jubilant George Halas said after the game, "but our primary objective was stopping the screen. He's a great screen man and we felt if we shut off the outside completely we would be halfway home. On the big play that set up our winning touchdown at the end of the third quarter, the linebacker, Joe Fortunato, held the inside (diagram, area A) and O'Bradovich became the cop on the outside (area B). He just drifted wide and read the play perfectly."

"Joe Fortunato had just warned us in our defensive huddle to look for screen," O'Bradovich said. "Stroud blocked me but when he released to the *inside* I knew it was screen, looked up and there was the ball (top left). It was meant for Morrison behind me". Jack Stroud came back and made a fine tackle. On the next play Wade threw to Marconi (34) and Hillebrand (87) with gloves, (lower left) muffed an interception. *On third and 12* with the speed of a pistol shot Wade (9) fired to Ditka (89) over center to set up Bears' second touchdown, as Pesonen (25) was helpless to defend (right).



Later, back in his private coaches' quarters with Sid Luckman, Coach Halas summed it all up with amazing accuracy. "A Championship team doesn't beat itself by making mistakes. *That* is the golden rule in sports. Examine the *mistake factor* in 1963. It is the secret of our success. The worst mistake a team can make is to lose the ball — by fumble or interception. Invariably, a fumble or interception gives your opponent a touchdown or field-goal opportunity. Conversely, the most positive factor (next to scoring) is to take the ball away from your opponent by interception or recovering a fumble. In 15 games, the Bears made only 27 ball-losing mistakes — 14 interceptions and 13 fumbles. But the Bears capitalized on opponents' mistakes 61 times — intercepting 41 passes and recovering 20 enemy fumbles. Our ratio of ball recoveries over ball losses was a plus 34! That averages two extra attacking opportunities per game; *and those two opportunities today meant the Championship!*"



Bill Wade standing tall as he hung onto his lockerpost in the victorious Bear dressing room, looked like a tired old soldier who might have fought with Andrew Jackson. "When you get the help of a defense as we got it today and as we have gotten it all year, it sustains you of course — it picks everyone up. I've studied and studied our defense and I'm convinced *there is no way you can beat them except with luck!*" He squinted and set his jaw and shook his head as he objectively summed up the frustrating task of tactically trying to beat them.





Bill Wade (9) scores winning touchdown from 1-foot line, driving in behind Davis (60), Pyle (50) and Karras (67).

End of a Season

The Giants' dressing room was filled with an angry silence. A friend told Andy Robustelli, who led his defense to another tremendous effort, that he didn't deserve to lose. "There's a lot of things in life you don't deserve, but you get." He bit out the words. "That's it. You take the good with the bad." It was the last game of his career. Al Sherman watched the trainers spray his quarterback's knee with cortisone. The coach whispered his praise. "He's a hell of a man. He played on one leg. It's too bad. I think we would have cut them up a little better if he had not been hurt." Y.A. looked up from the lowest moment of his pro career to describe his last pass that Petitbon had caught for Chicago's fifth

interception. "We had only seven seconds, no sense sitting back and eating it, so you just throw it up there and hope someone will catch it." He lowered his head. "It was just a bad day."

The 44th season ends with a sneak from the 1-foot line. July to December comes down to one foot for Wade, one inch for Shofner. A year of great moments and tremendous performances: Y. A. Tittle's record 36 touchdowns; Jim Brown's record mile rushing through the most skilled defenses in history, 1863 yards; and the Bears' overwhelming defense that helped Chicago win the Title. After 44 years, the Papa Bear was still on top.

The Players in the National Football League - 1963

EAST

Cleveland Browns

23	Benz, Larry	DHB
83	Brewer, Johnny	OE
32	Brown, Jim	FB
70	Brown, John	OT
73	Clark, Monte	OT
86	Collins, Gary	OE
64	Connolly, Ted	OG
50	Costello, Vince	LB
42	Crespi, Bob	OE
20	Fichtner, Ross	DHB
35	Fiss, Galen	LB
24	Franklin, Bob	DHB
79	Gain, Bob	DT
80	Glass, Bill	DE
62	Goosby, Tom	LB
48	Green, Ernie	OHB
76	Groza, Lou	K
66	Hickerson, Gene	OG
82	Houston, Jim	LB-DE
87	Hutchinson, Tom	OE
69	Kanicki, Jim	OT
88	Kreitling, Rich	DE
52	Lucci, Mike	LB
56	Morrow, John	C
53	Morze, Frank	QB
15	Ninowski, Jim	QB
78	Parker, Frank	DT
30	Parrish, Bernie	DHB
26	Renfro, Ray	OHB
13	Ryan, Frank	QB
36	Scales, Charley	OHB
77	Schafraath, Dick	OT
38	Sezuresk, Stan	LB
44	Shofner, Jim	DHB
40	Shorter, Jim	DHB
54	Tidmore, Sam	LB
43	Webb, Ken	OHB
84	Wiggin, Paul	DE
60	Wooten, John	OG

Dallas Cowboys

66	Andrie, George	DE
38	Baker, Sam	K-FB
80	Barnes, Gary	OE
44	Bishop, Don	DHB
22	Bullocks, Amos	OHB
82	Clarke, Frank	OHB
53	Connelly, Mike	C
52	Edwards, Dave	LB
83	Folkins, Lee	OE
75	Fry, Bob	OT
27	Gaechter, Mike	DHB
11	Gibbs, Guy	QB
34	Green, Cornell	DHB
56	Hays, Harold	LB
54	Howley, Chuck	LB
81	Howston, Bill	OE
51	Hoyem, Lynn	C-OG
60	Isbell, Joe Bob	OG
55	Jordan, Lee Roy	LB
14	LeBaron, Eddie	QB
74	Lilly, Bob	DE
72	Lisco, Tony	OT
41	Livingston, Warren	DHB
31	Marsh, Amos	FB
70	Marmelard, Dale	OG
17	Meredith, Don	QB
78	Meyers, John	DT
84	Norman, Pettis	OE
76	Nutting, Ed	OT
20	Overton, Jerry	DHB
43	Perkins, Don	OHB
68	Reese, Guy	DT
42	Ridlon, Jim	DHB
64	Smith Jim Ray	OG
79	Stephens, Larry	DT
40	Stiger, Ray	DHB
50	Tubbs, Jerry	LB

New York Giants

49	Barnes, Erich	DHB
63	Bolin, Bookie	OG
79	Brown, Roosevelt	OT
60	Byers, Ken	DE-OG
34	Chandler, Don	K
46	Counts, John	OHB
62	Dess, Darrell	OG
48	Dove, Eddie	DHB
16	Gifford, Frank	OHB
15	Griffing, Glynn	QB
87	Hillebrand, Jerry	LB
78	Howell, Lane	O-DT
70	Huff, Sam	LB
75	Katcavage, Jim	DE
37	Killett, Charles	OHB
24	King, Phil	OHB
71	Kirouac, Lou	DE-OG
53	Larson, Greg	C
76	LoVetere, John	DT
22	Lynch, Dick	DHB
39	McElhenny, Hugh	OHB
77	Modzelewski, Dick	DT
40	Morrison, Joe	O-DHB
20	Patton, Jim	DHB
25	Pesonen, Dick	DHB
81	Robustelli, Andy	DE
82	Scott, Tom	LB
85	Shofner, Del	OE
66	Stroud, Jack	OT

65	Taylor, Bob	DE
88	Thomas, Aaron	OE
14	Tittle, Y. A.	QB
64	Walker, Mickey	LB
80	Walton, Joe	OE
21	Webb, Allan	DHB
29	Webster, Alex	FB
31	Winter, Bill	LR

Philadelphia Eagles

55	Baughan, Maxie	LB
64	Blaine, Ed	OG
22	Brown, Tim	OHB
45	Burroughs, Don	DHB
21	Carr, Jimmy	DHB
67	Case, Pete	OG
84	Clark, Mike	K-OE
27	Cross, Irv	DHB
35	Dean, Ted	FB
28	Dudley, Paul	OHB
72	Fuller, Frank	DT
81	Goodwin, Ronnie	OE
78	Graham, Dave	OT
17	Guglielmi, Ralph	QB
74	Gunnels, Riley	DE
42	Harrison, Bob	LB
43	Heck, Ralph	LB
80	Henson, Gary	OE
10	Hill, King	QB-K
9	Jurgensen, Sonny	QB
52	Lloyd, Dave	C-LB
23	McClellan, Mike	DHB
25	McDonald, Tommy	OHB
77	Mansfield, Ray	DT
65	Mellekhs, John	DT
26	Peaks, Clarence	FB
83	Quinlan, Bill	DE
24	Ramsey, Nate	DHB
44	Retzlaff, Pete	OE
68	Richards, Bobby	DE
51	Schrader, Jim	C
48	Scotti, Ben	DHB
76	Smith, J. D.	OT
85	Smith, Ralph	OE
86	Stafford, Dick	DE
82	Tarasovic, George	LB
37	Woodeschick, Tom	OHB

Pittsburgh Steelers

63	Anderson, Arthur	OT
73	Atkinson, Frank	DT
78	Baker, John	DE
85	Ballman, Gary	OHB
71	Bradshaw, Charley	OT
24	Bradshaw, Jim	DHB
15	Brown, Ed	QB
86	Burrell, John	OE
40	Carpenter, Preston	OE
74	Cordileone, Lou	DT
44	Daniel, William	DHB
84	Dial, Buddy	OE
43	Glass, Glenn	DHB
27	Haley, Dick	DHB
42	Hoak, Dick	OHB
77	James, Dan	OT
35	Johnson, John Henry	FB
26	Keys, Brady	DHB
75	Krupa, Joe	DE
72	Lemek, Ray	OG
23	Mack, Bill	QB
79	Michaels, Lou	DE
14	Nelsen, Bill	QB
12	Nofsinger, Terry	QB
51	Nutter, Buzz	C
66	Pottios, Myron	LB
88	Powers, John	OE
80	Reger, John	OE
36	Russell, Andy	LB
62	Sandusky, Mike	OG
33	Sapp, Theron	OHB
67	Schmitz, Bob	LB
70	Stautner, Ernie	DE-T
68	Stehouwer, Ron	OG
28	Thomas, Clendon	DHB
30	Tracy, Tom	OHB

St. Louis Cardinals

85	Anderson, Taz	OE
25	Bakken, Jim	K-DHB
86	Brumm, Don	DE
35	Childress, Joe	OHB
40	Conrad, Bobby Joe	OHB
75	Cook, Ed	OT-G
61	Crow, John David	OHB
37	DeMarco, Bob	C
37	Fischer, Pat	DHB
3	Gambrell, Bill	OE
22	Gautt, Prentice	OHB
55	Goode, Irv	OT
64	Gray, Ken	OG
33	Hamack, Mal	OHB
80	Henke, Ed	DE
41	Hill, Jimmy	DHB
66	Houser, Ed	OG
11	Humphrey, Buddy	QB
12	Johnson, Charley	QB
34	Koman, Bill	LB
78	McMillan, Ernie	OT
62	Meinert, Dale	LB
70	Owens, Don	DT
75	Owens, Luke	DT

23	Paremore, Bob	OHB
88	Randle, Sonny	OE
65	Redmond, Tom	OG
71	Reynolds, Bob	DT
84	Robb, Joe	DE
52	Rushing, Marion	LB
72	Silas, Sam	OT
81	Smith, Jackie	OHB
24	Stacy, Billy	DHB
67	Stallings, Larry	DE
21	Stovall, Jerry	D-OHB
31	Symank, John	DHB
36	Thornton, Bill	FB
38	Triplett, Bill	DHB
8	Wilson, Larry	DHB

Washington Redskins

42	Anderson, Bill	OE
32	Barnes, Billy	OHB
31	Bosseler, Don	FB
63	Breedlov, Rod	LB
20	Budd, Frank	OE
52	Butsko, Harry	LB
89	Collier, Jim	OE
23	Crabbe, Claude	DHB
30	Cunningham, Jim	FB
75	Davidson, Ben	DT-DE
87	Dugan, Fred	OE
39	Francis, Dave	FB
46	Hackbart, Dale	DHB
50	Hageman, Fred	C
15	Izo, George	QB
47	James, Dick	OHB
66	Kammerer, Carl	LB
51	Kelley, Gordon	LB
60	Khayat, Bob	K-OG
74	Khayat, Ed	DT
73	Mattson, Allen	OT
55	Miller, Riley	LB
49	Mitchell, Robby	OHB
62	Nisby, John	OG
61	O'Brien, Fran	OT
86	Paluck, John	DE
56	Parilli, Tony	LB
53	Pellegrini, Bob	LB
65	Promuto, Vince	OG
88	Richter, Pat	OE-K
72	Rutgens, Joe	DT
28	Rzempoluch, Ted	OHB
24	Sample, John	DHB
40	Sanders, Lonnie	DHB
16	Snead, Norman	QB
78	Snidow, Ron	DT-DE
41	Steffen, Dick	DHB
71	Stynchula, Andy	DE
79	Toneff, Bob	DT-OT

WEST

Baltimore Colts

82	Berry, Raymond	OE
31	Bielski, Dick	OE-K
40	Boyd, Bobby	DHB
81	Braase, Ordell	DE
55	Burkert, Jackie	LB
75	Colvin, Jim	DT
15	Cuzzo, Gary	QB
78	Diehl, John	DT
73	Gilburg, Tom	OT-K
26	Harris, Wendell	DHB
25	Hawkins, Alex	OE-OHB
45	Hill, Jerry	OHB
35	Lockett, J. W.	FB
20	Logan, Jerry	DHB
43	Lyles, Lenny	DHB
88	Mackey, John	OE
89	Marchetti, Gino	DE
47	Martin, Jim	K
41	Matte, Tom	OHB
76	Miller, Fred	DT
24	Moore, Lenny	OHB
80	Nelson, Andy	DHB
28	Orr, Jimmy	OHB
27	Owens, R. C.	OE
77	Parker, Jim	OG-OT
36	Pellington, Bill	LB
60	Preas, George	OT
62	Pyle, Palmer	OG
87	Richardson, W.	OE-DHB
68	Sandusky, Alex	OG
56	Saul, Bill	LB
60	Shinnick, Don	LB
71	Sullivan, Dan	OT-OG
52	Szymanski, Dick	C
83	Thompson, Don	DE
19	Unitas, John	QB
72	Vogel, Bob	OT
46	Welch, Jim	DHB

Chicago Bears

81	Atkins, Doug	DE
73	Barnett, Steve	OT
62	Bettis, Tom	LB
49	Bivins, Charlie	OHB
10	Bukich, Rudy	QB
29	Bull, Ronnie	OHB
72	Cadile, Jim	OG
25	Caroline, J. C.	DHB
35	Casares, Rick	FB
46	Coia, Angelo	OE
60	Davis, Roger	OG
89	Ditka, Mike	OE

84	Farrington, John	OE
31	Fortunato, Joe	LB
28	Galimore, Willie	OHB
61	George, Bill	LB
43	Glueck, Larry	DHB
88	Green, Bobby Joe	K
80	Jencks, Bob	OE-K
76	Johnson, John	DT
78	Jones, Stan	DT
67	Karras, Ted	OG
74	Kilcullen, Bob	DT
83	Leclerc, Roger	LB-K
70	Lee, Herman	OT
71	Leggett, Earl	DT
26	McRate, Bennie	DHB
34	Marconi, Joe	FB
47	Morris, Johnny	OHB
33	Morris, Larry	LB
87	O'Bradovich, Ed	DE
17	Petitbon, Richie	DHB
50	Pyle, Mike	C
24	Taylor, Roosevelt	DHB
9	Wade, Bill	QB
63	Wetoska, Bob	OT
23	Whitsell, Dave	DHB
75	Williams, Fred	DT

Detroit Lions

41	Barr, Terry	OHB
57	Brettschneider, Carl	LB
76	Brown, Roger	LB
14	Bundra Mike	DT
59	Clark, Ernie	LB
89	Cogdill, Gail	OE
20	Compton, Dick	OHB
6	Ferguson, Larry	OHB
53	Gaubatz, Dennis	LB
80	Gibbons, Jim	OE
79	Gonzaga, John	OT
75	Gordy, John	OG
86	Hall, Tom	OE-DHB
81	Lane, Dick	DHB
77	LaRose, Dan	OG-OT
28	Lary, Yale	DHB-K
44	LeBeau, Dick	DHB
52	Lee, Monte	LB
45	Lewis, Dan	OHB
43	Lowe, Gary	DHB
78	McCord, Darris	DE
21	Maher, Bruce	DHB
30	Matson, Ollie	FB-OHB
54	Messner, Mag	LB
14	Morrall, Earl	QB
72	Peters, Floyd	DT
33	Pietrosante, Nick	FB
16	Plum, Milt	QB
61	Reeber, Lucian	DT-OT
34	Ryder, Nick	FB
70	Sanders, Daryl	OT
56	Schmidt, Joe	LB
50	Scholtz, Bob	OT
83	Simon, Jim	DE-LB
25	Studstill, Pat	OHB
85	Vargo, Larry	OE
55	Walker, Wayne	LB-K
23	Watkins, Tom	OHB
51	Whitlow, Bob	C
88	Williams, Sam	DE

Green Bay Packers

26	Adderley, Herb	DH
62	Aldridge, Lionel	D
12	Bratkowski, Zeke	Q
33	Carpenter, Lew	OH
58	Currie, Dan	L
87	Davis, Willie	D
86	Dowler, Boyd	OE-L
81	Fleming, Marv	L
71	Forester, Bill	O
75	Gregg, Forrest	O
46	Gremminger, Hank	DH
67	Grimm, Dan	F
40	Gros, Earl	L
79	Hanner, Dave	D
83	Henry, Urban	DE-
53	Iman, Ken	
21	Jeter, Bob	OH
74	Jordan, Henry	DT-D
77	Kostelnik, Ron	D
64	Kramer, Jerry	OG-L
88	Kramer, Ron	O
85	McGee, Max	OE-L
78	Masters, Norm	O
35	Mestnik, Frank	F
25	Moore, Tom	OH
66	Nitschke, Ray	L
23	Norton, Jerry	DHB-
22	Pitts, Elijah	OH
51	Ringo, Jim	
10	Roach, John	Q
89	Robinson, Dave	LB-D
76	Skoronski, Bob	O
15	Starr, Bart	Q
31	Taylor, Jim	F
63	Thurston, Fred	O
47	Whitenton, Jesse	DH-
24	Wood, Willie	DHB-



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